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WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST ISSUE

This issue is your ultimate guide to the summer and making your home as stylish as possible this August.

We've edited the best indoor/outdoor swimming pools (p99), picked the cutest bird trend-inspired products to bring nature indoors (p130) and visited literally dozens of interiors stores to give you the best Northern shopping hotspots (p91) – it's a tough job sometimes.

And August is an important month. As you take time off work for summer holidays, whether you're going away or staying here, you're either looking forward to returning to the comfort and familiarity of your home or spending more time in it than usual. Suddenly you appreciate your space a bit more and want to improve it. So with that in mind we set about styling a lust-worthy American-themed cushions and throws shoot (p88) – if you're not heading off on your own USA road trip (I've just got back from LA as I type this, sorry!) – bring a taste of stars and stripes into your life in another way. We've also pulled together the key wallpaper looks for the coming months (p72) to help you revamp your home fast and this issue also boasts a round-up of the latest bathroom and kitchen trends (p65).

Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that although there are always ideas and looks you can follow ultimately trends, like summer holidays, come and go. You want to pick pieces you love, that your home will love, and that you'll want to keep for longer than your summer holiday tan lasts. So when styling your home this summer there are just three rules: be bold, be brave and most importantly be yourself!

And finally, just to let you in on a little secret, next month sees the launch of a fabulous new Factory Girl feature in the magazine, where *CFL* will be heading off to tour and report back on the finest interior factories of the North and how they manage to bring you the gorgeous designs and products that you choose to adorn your home with. First up is covetable Cheshire-based fabric company Montgomery.

Enjoy this issue and see you next month...

Caroline Jones, Acting Editor

THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS... 159 HOURS SPENT WITH THE OFFICE WINDOWS FLUNG OPEN WIDE **16 TIMES THE PHRASE "I SO WANT A SWIMMING POOL IN MY HOUSE" WAS SAID** 10 DAYS SPENT IN LOS ANGELES **1 SHOPPING TRIP TO UTILITY IN LIVERPOOL** (PICTURED ABOVE)

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RETAIL THERAPY

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Tel. 020 8875 6000 or visit: www.vivo-vb.com

RIGHT
'Megaview' from Luxaflex is the new Venetian **blind** collection including a complete palette of new colours and exclusive paint finishes. The blinds give the option of an enhanced view to the outside by tilting slats together to create a double view. Prices start at £71 for a blind measuring 60cm x 60cm. **Tel. 0800 652 7799 or visit: www.luxaflex.co.uk**

BELOW
Graham & Brown's home collection adds a chic range of urban **cityscape art** to choose from. Perfect to hang straight on the wall and adds a fresh contemporary feel to the home. The collection includes a range of finishes and styles from framed printed canvases to wall stickers. Prices start from £12.
Tel. 0800 328 8452 or visit: www.grahamandbrown.com

'Shelbourne' is the new collection of **decorative weaves** from Today Interiors. Offered in four versatile designs, 'Morrison', 'Clarence', 'Gresham' and 'Dylan' and available in six stylish colour options. Prices start from £39.50 per metre.
Tel. 01476 574 401 or visit: www.todayinteriors.co.uk

Living It Up present 'Emer', a platform **bed** designed with simple lines, available with a natural oak finish. 'Emer' ticks all requisite boxes for the contemporary room set; practical, alluring and design led. Available either in oak or with a dark stained walnut finish and in a choice of three luxurious sizes. Priced at £749.
Tel. 0116 269 5960 or visit: www.livingitup.co.uk

ABOVE
Oversized trend **furniture** from Christopher Guy is taking the design world by storm. Working on a large scale Christopher Guy has created furniture that breaks the boundaries of traditional style. As well as furniture, dramatic mirrors are also available in a variety of finishes and styles. Prices start from £4,719.60.
Tel. 020 7348 7366 or visit: www.christopherguy.com

LEFT
Nest present 'All White' with their glamorous collection of fresh furnishing ideas. Go for elegance and combine white lacquer, high gloss, glass and mirrored surfaces for a fresh, sophisticated and versatile look. Try the 'Zanotta Kilt' **sofa** in luxurious white leather available in a variety of compositions. Priced from £4,342.23 and available in a range of fabric and leather options. **Tel. 0114 266 6900 or visit: www.nest.co.uk**

LEFT
'Coolmante' from Aura Lifestyle is the stunning new **bed linen** range made of easy-care fabric woven to create a dry touch, luxurious feel and have a beautiful shimmer. 'Coolmante' is a stunning anti-bacterial bedlinen that will look and feel just as wonderful after each wash! **Tel. 0161 275 9966 or visit: www.aurahome.com.au**

FAR LEFT
Little Greene present 'Oriental Papers' featuring oriental-inspired **wallpapers** drawn from archive silks and kimono fabrics. Available in a range of seven exotic designs over 32 colourways. Influenced by traditional Japanese design featuring dramatic blooms, delicate blossoms, bamboo leaves and a stylised landscape of pine trees and clouds. Prices start from £39.50 per roll. **Tel. 0845 880 5855 or visit: www.thelittlegreene.com**

The sleek 'Natural' collection from Teuco comprises **bathtubs** and contemporary inset **shower** enclosures. Available in slate, sunny Mediterranean limestone and rich autumnal Pierre gris the 'natural' collection brings the beauty of the outside into the comfort and privacy of your home. Prices on application. **Visit: www.teuco.com**

'Oriental Flower' is part of the new cosy **bedding** range from Terrys Fabrics. Supplier of quality curtains, blinds and homewares there is a variety of vibrant duvet sets to choose from in a range of colours and designs. Prices start from £9.40 for a single duvet cover with pillow case. **Tel. 0870 360 2233 or visit: www.terrysfabrics.co.uk**

ABOVE

The new 'Odeon' **chandelier** from Christopher Hyde has been finely crafted in shimmering crystal against a contemporary polished nickel frame. Scaled to suit the more modest size room and featuring six lights it's the perfect centerpiece for any home. Prices start from £2,317. Tel. 020 7351 0863 or visit: www.christopherhyde.com

RIGHT BELOW

Taken from the summer collection, The Hidden Art Shop present a collection of stylish new products, from interior accessories to the perfect gift ideas all can be found here. As pictured the 'Bouquet' pink **clock** is priced at £44, for further product pricing just log online and get shopping! Tel. 020 7729 3800 or visit: www.hiddenartshop.com

TOP LEFT
The new Autumn/Winter collection from Dunelm Mill features all the home essentials you'll need, from storage solutions to refreshing interior accessories. As pictured, **cushions** start from £6.99 and a three-drawer 'venetian' cabinet is priced from £109.99.
Tel. 08451 656 565 or visit: www.dunelm-mill.com

CENTRE LEFT
Daval Kitchens has launched a new range of fitted furnishing, textures and finishes as well as a revolutionary technology, option-i, allowing people to not just dream of their ideal **kitchen** but to create it. The range includes quality materials and unique finishes and comprises over 40 different options. Prices start from £10,000.
Visit: www.daval-furniture.co.uk

BOTTOM LEFT
Aestus has added 'Bernini' a unique and exciting **radiator** design to its product portfolio. From a new collection of over 12 inspiring designs 'Bernini' boasts cutting-edge design proving that heating the home can be design-focused. Shown left in a gold leaf finish 'Bernini' resembles a tumbling vision of fiery golden leaves and swirls. A further five luxury finishes are available. Prices start from £5,675.
Tel. 01902 387 080 or visit: www.aestus-radiators.com

BELOW
Foscarini have collaborated with Diesel to produce a collection of **lighting**, as featured and taken from the 'Graf' collection, the suspended lamp is priced at £201. The range features graphic prints referring directly to the Diesel home collection and are designed on an opaque weave. The lamps are also available in table and floor versions.
Tel. 0800 376 2518 or visit: www.foscarini.com

RIGHT
Add a touch of glamour to your home with the latest home furniture and accessories collection in silver from The French Bedroom Company. As pictured the butterfly **drawers**, £695, is just one of the new sleek pieces available.
Tel. 08456 448 022 or visit: www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

DESIGN NEWS

SUMMER DELIGHTS

Cox & Cox have launched their fabulous new summer 2009 collection, allowing you to enjoy their beautiful yet practical products without worrying about your bank account! If you're looking for a unique present, new ornament for the house or ways to keep the kids entertained during the summer holidays, then look no further than your Cox & Cox summer catalogue. Pictured is the Lemon Drizzle Cake Candle, £18, 'Live' Sign, £14.

Tel. 0870 442 4787 for more product information or log onto www.coxandcox.co.uk to view the summer collection and to find your nearest stockist.

RUNAWAY SUCCESS >>>

This summer sees the exciting launch of the new lifestyle brand 'Runaway Coast' from Ali Kerr. With a curious mind and an adventurous spirit, his travels have inspired him to create a collection of homeware and textiles, which draws upon coastal influences from around the globe. If you're looking for a home treat, the brand offers a wide selection of fabrics and products from cushions, wallpaper and quilts to bags and dresses. Pictured is the 'Butterfly' range, prices start from £12 for a placemat.

Runaway Coast is available online at www.runawaycoast.com and through mail order. Tel. 0845 054 3775 to receive a catalogue or for more product details.

Mosaic Fever

Quality wall tiles and mosaics company Original Style has created a statement with their superb new collection of mosaics and borders. Highlights of the new collections include the 'Iridescent' range (pictured) that consists of a fruity cocktail of colours, including Tequila Sunrise, Pink Panther and Bellini and which is also available in an assortment of shapes. You'll be dazzled by the lavish pearl and 24 carat gold leaf of 'The Elite Collection' and if you're looking for stylish with a blend of beautiful stone with shimmering glass and metal, go for the 'Earth and Fire' collection. Or choose the lustrous stainless steel penny rounds or brickbond mosaics for the contemporary edge of the 'Metal' collection.

For your copy of the new brochure, stockists and prices log onto www.originalstyle.com or tel. 01392 473 000.

NEW KINGSTOWN FURNITURE BROCHURE

The UK's leading manufacturer of bedroom and lounge furniture has launched its new 2009 season brochure. Detailing four new bedroom ranges, as well as information about Kingstown's 14 'value for money' ranges including the company's best-selling flagship bedroom collection, the hand-washed, cream-finished 'Signature', the brochure is available now.

Kingstown offers a fantastic combination of refreshing furniture, from the ultra cool 'Mono' range in a choice of stunning black or white high gloss finishes, to classic bedroom furniture with a mixture of functionality and clever storage. 'Nicole', 'Westbury', 'Monterey' and 'Mono', the new ranges offer a variety of finishes and storage solutions to suit all tastes, the quality collections offer a mix of traditional and contemporary design. Pictured is the new 'Autograph' range.

For more information or to get your own copy of the new brochure visit their website at www.kingstown.co.uk or tel. 01482 701 173.

RAINBOW BRIGHT >>>

Giving your kitchen a vibrant colour accent has just become super-easy with the launch of Brabantia's colour matching service for its brilliant kitchen Touch Bin. If you'd love a Brabantia Touch Bin but need it in a specific colour this is the answer to your culinary-space prayers. The new personalisation service is available on the 45l bin through selected retailers and via their website with over 200 RAL international standard colours to choose from. Pictured in Green you can get your Touch Bin for approximately £275.

Visit: www.brabantia.co.uk for details on your nearest participating retailer.

Natuzzi at Stocktons

Suppliers of quality furniture to the North West Stocktons have welcomed Natuzzi to their Manchester showroom. The new Natuzzi show area joins the 40 other top brands already showcased in the family run company's traditional showroom and three-storey contemporary showroom at the Great Ancoats site.

Visit the showroom at 140 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, M4 6DU. Tel. 0161 273 5331 or see products from the Stocktons selection of furniture at: www.stocktons.co.uk

GOING TO TOWN

Townhouse's Design Studio, located in Harrogate's fashionable Montpellier Quarter, has recently undergone an extensive redesign, incorporating impressive new lifestyle kitchen displays on two floors, by Comprex and E+K. These include Italian manufacturer Comprex's 'Sintesi', which was first featured last year at Eurocucina in Milan and Townhouse were selected as the first studio outside Milan to display the stunning new kitchen design. Sleek, wall hung units in silky white lacquer blend with low profile White Corian work surfaces, with a low feature island accented in Canaletto Walnut. There is also a beautiful 'Rondo' display (pictured) by German manufacturer E+K, featuring a curved island in Makassar wood teamed with a tall bank of units in lustrous Olive green gloss lacquer, one of over 300 bespoke colour options available. The studio has now been complemented by a new first-floor bedroom display, featuring furniture by Wackenhut and Nova Mobili. Townhouse has also been selected recently as a finalist for 'Kitchen Showroom of The Year' in the KBB Industry Awards 2009.

Log onto: www.townhousedesign.co.uk to discover more about Townhouse Contemporary Living or tel. 01423 701 555.

COOL CHARACTER

We're willing to put money on you falling in love at first sight with super-cool lifestyle website Caroline McGrath's Penguin Wallpaper just like we did. The fun and fresh wallpaper by Isak has just been added to the website's exclusive collection of coveted home design products. The fun aqua penguins play off a fresh white background and are the perfect solution if you're looking to give a lift to your living space. Penguin Wallpaper costs £30 per roll (roll size 52cm wide and 10cm long)

Tel. 01869 340 479 for more information or log onto www.carolinemcgrath.co.uk to order your wallpaper now.

KNOT JUST ANY CHAIR

Thonet is celebrating 150 years of chair innovation by producing a special edition chair for the Bauhaus exhibition in Germany (Weimar, Dessau and Berlin, Jul-Oct 2009) and New York (MOMA, Nov 2009-Jan 2010).

Head to www.thonet.co.uk to find out more.

DESIGN **NEWS**

DREAM CUSHION >>>

Bobo Kids have added a beautiful vintage butterfly cushion to their range of luxury interiors exclusively for children and teenagers. The embroidered cushion is the ideal present for any little girl's bedroom. Priced at £145.

Visit www.bobokids.net to find out more about the children's range or tel. 0207 838 1020.

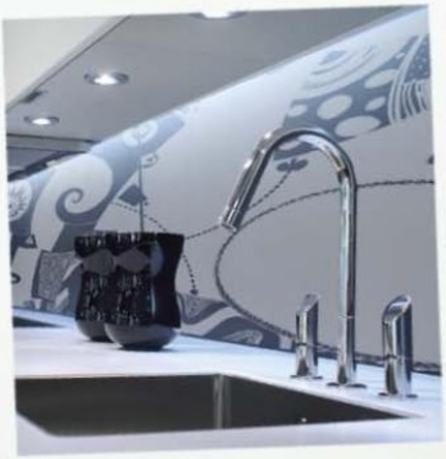
Hot Heirlooms

Inspired by luxury houses and exclusive hotels in beautiful cities around the world, Terence Conran has just launched his new range of exquisite cotton bed linen, now available at John Lewis.

The long lasting fabrics are tailored with meticulous detail providing elegant comfort and enjoyment. The range of bed linen includes bedcovers, blankets and cushions in sand-washed silks, cashmeres and luxurious velvets.

The nine ranges are named after cities around the world; available now are 'Edinburgh', 'Paris', 'Manhattan', 'Barcelona' and 'Milan' and coming soon are 'Boston', 'Lisbon', 'Vienna' and 'Verona'. Prices range from £20 for pillowcases up to £130 for a super-king quilt cover. Pictured is the new 'Paris' collection.

The Conran Heirloom range is available from selected John Lewis stores around the country and online at www.johnlewis.com



GLASS ACT

Give your kitchen a fresh lift for the summer with bespoke contemporary etched glass by Wales-based designer Caroline Rees. This feature glass splash-back panel is made to order and available with a large selection of designs. **Call 01792 369 652 or visit: www.blastedglass.co.uk or to find out more.**

PURE DESIGN

If you're in the market for a design-led kitchen, bespoke bedroom furniture, beautiful bathroom or still searching for that perfect piece of contemporary furniture Yorkshire's largest home interiors store Pure Design now offers a host of brands, pieces and services to help you find what you're looking for. Incorporating names such as SieMatic, Gaggenau, Leolux, Sub Zero, Wolf, Gwinner and Koinor as well as a full design team and installation specialists, the Leeds-based company and showroom caters for the luxury home furnishings market. Pictured is the SieMatic 6006 kitchen range.

***Concept For Living* readers should visit www.puredesignuk.com or tel. 0113 218 6490 to find out more.**

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THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

If you buy one thing this August make it an alphabet-inspired adornment. ***These five picks are to the letter.***

1

2

3

4

5

1 **Give your mug tree a bit of character with a striking initial mug.** Initial Red Letter Mug, £10 each, Heal's.

2 **These will make you forget any other type of love letter...** Colourful Block Letters, from £1.95-£6.95, Emma Lambert.

3 **Adding some fun to your home is as easy as ABC with this cute cushion.** ABC Cushion, £18, Cath Kidston.

4 **The writing's on the wall, quite literally, with this gorgeous paper.** Alpha Beta Wallpaper in Charcoal, £75 per roll, Wallpaper Space.

5 **Dot your Is, cross your Ts and dry your dishes in style thanks to this fab tea towel.** Alphabet Tea Towel, £11, Hunkydory Home.

MINI TREND
MAPS

August is the month of travel, so treat yourself to these wanderlust buys.

Paris Print, £45, Bodie and Fou.

A6 Europe Journal, £7.95, Colloco.

Underground Expresso Cups, from £19.95, I Want One Of Those.

Bespoke Kitchens, Bedrooms, Studies

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All the colour

A three-storey property in the Lake District underwent a two-phase interior and exterior renovation to become a fresh family home full of zest.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"I have family in the Lake District and I spent a lot of my childhood here. Now I want my own family to have the chance to enjoy it," says Peter Davis on his and his wife, Jane's decision to start looking for a home in the Lake District four years ago. The couple spent several years searching for a suitable property in the area for them and their two young children, Georgie, and Harry, when a chance sighting gave them their future home. "We'd been looking for the right location for two or three years when we happened to drive past this house and saw a 'For sale' board," says Peter. "We were immediately attracted to it."

The Davises's home originally dates back to the 1930s, but it was completely rebuilt in 2006 by a local builder. When Peter and Jane bought the property in Easter 2008, while they loved the home they knew it needed a complete interior overhaul and so enlisted the help of local designer Ally Tordoff and her company Fidget Design. "We'd heard of Fidget Design and Ally via mutual friends," says Peter. "As soon as we met her and saw Fidget's other output and style of working we were convinced it was the way to go."

The interior revamp was tackled in two stages: Phase I was the main part of the house – the upper two floors – which commenced in Easter 2008 and was completed by that August. Phase II then got underway, this involved converting the garage downstairs into a garden lounge, creating a new entrance lobby and two bedrooms, both with en-suites. The second part of the refurbishment was completed in March this year and Peter and Jane loved the end result – a cool, fresh and funky mixture of colours, textures and shapes that differ but, at the »»»

OPPOSITE PAGE A lime green accent in the kitchen was the starting point for the colour palette used throughout Jane and Peter's home. **THIS PAGE** The Davises's property comprises, among other rooms, a garden lounge and guest bedrooms on the ground floor, family lounge, dining area and kitchen on the first floor and master bedroom, bathroom and children's bedrooms on the top floor.

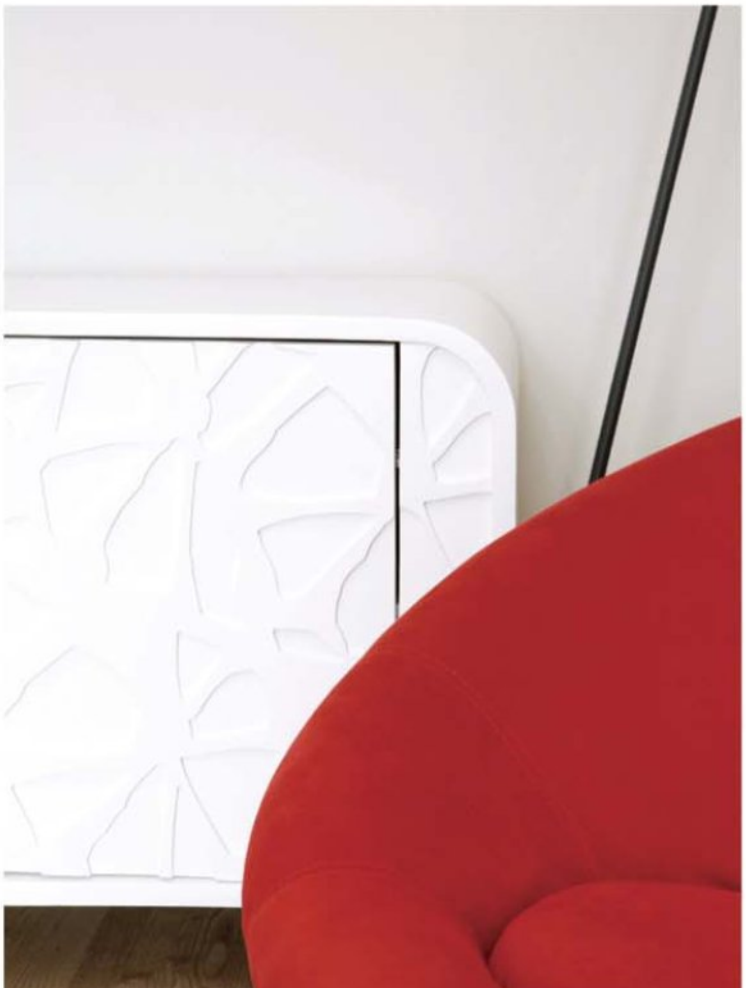
"Our tastes are contemporary, fresh and uncluttered. We have a bias for local influence and supporting local crafts people and suppliers, as well as being environmentally conscious"

same time, blend from one room to the next and one floor to another. "We were absolutely delighted with the finished interior and exterior," says Peter. "It exceeded our expectations, and we're perfectionists! Our tastes are contemporary, fresh and uncluttered. We have a bias for local influence and supporting local crafts people and suppliers, as well as being environmentally conscious."

A key factor in helping the Davises support the local businesses was Ally who met with Peter and Jane onsite at the beginning of the project to discuss the brief before the interior redesign commenced. "The original interior was bland and boring – except for the carpet, that was migraine inducing!" says Ally. "There were dry-lined plastered walls everywhere that were painted magnolia. The layout of the spaces was OK and the majority of the fixtures and fittings were generally fine, it just lacked interest and character.

"Peter and Jane were very specific in their brief about being fresh, contemporary, funky and verging on the edge of retro. And definitely *no* brown." With that Ally set to work on creating a vibrant but contemporary colour mix. "We built a picture of the direction to head in quite quickly," she says. "Many of our local projects like to use earthy and calming colours, so being able to inject a zesty colour palette was really refreshing for us too. It's great when you can go for a bold use of colour."

The boldest use of colour was the zesty lime green kitchen, while a more muted version of this colour palette spilt out into the adjoining living room. Variants of »»»



ABOVE LEFT Storage was a key consideration when fitting out the home. Ally Tordoff, owner of Fidget Design, designed the white sideboard in the garden lounge.
ABOVE RIGHT A stunning glass chandelier creates a hallway focal point. **OPPOSITE** A black and green colour scheme adds a wow factor to the kitchen.

"We love the garden lounge. Style-wise and functionally it's a fantastic space for young and old to enjoy summer and winter"

aquas, softer limes and turquoises were then offset throughout the rest of the house and complemented with grey and white. "Peter loves lime green and it's one of the most vibrant colours in the spectrum," says Ally. "This led us and the rest of the colours just started falling into places. We balanced this with other vivid shades and then introduced a calm backdrop." The master bedroom was given a boutique, hotel feel, "We chose calming cream leather for the feature headboard in the main master bedroom," says Ally. "We loved the way this introduces a horizontal grid which offsets against the gloss white finish of the wardrobes and soft eucalyptus green of the curtains." The children's rooms were allowed to be perfect boy and girl play areas and treasure chests, but not without a hint of style thanks to the use of an Osborne & Little wallpaper here and a Kartell bookcase there.

After colour, storage was the second most important design aspect of the project, which prompted Ally to come up with innovative design solutions to storing away everyday objects and clutter such as DVDs, books and speakers. "The interior is also about innovation; concealing speakers behind artwork, building in cupboards that look like modern art canvases and creating a suitable backdrop for setting off a fantastic piece of furniture or light fitting," says Ally. The biggest concealment coup however is in the master guest bedroom where an en-suite bathroom is cleverly hidden behind a built-in wardrobe, a touch that Peter loved. "The lower guest en-suite is so fresh and natural," he says. "And we love the way it's concealed. It's a shame our guests get to enjoy it the most – not us!"

As well as an interior overhaul the exterior of the Davises's Lake District home »»»

OPPOSITE Vibrant 'Montis Loge' chairs and footstools stand out against a neutral backdrop. **THIS PAGE** The garden lounge features an Opus Incertum bookcase, handmade rug by Forty Thieves and statement 'Noguchi' coffee table.

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SieMatic burg DORN BRACHT GAGGENAU GWINNER KOINOR LEOLUX WOLF

TOP Ally felt the guest master bedroom and en-suite needed to have dramatic lighting and a link to the nature outside so she introduced a printed tree trunk design on the headboard fabric and followed it through to the wallpaper in the en-suite (above left). **ABOVE TOP RIGHT** The master bedroom has a chic boutique hotel feel. **ABOVE BOTTOM RIGHT** Splashes of colour have been added to every room, including the guest bathroom.

"They were very specific in their brief about being fresh, contemporary, funky and verging on the edge of retro. And definitely no brown"

also underwent a design revamp. This took it from a simple driveway to a tiered, landscaped outdoor space boasting garden art, a host of flower and plant beds and kids' play area complete with climbing wall. "The exterior landscaping was very basic," says Ally. "It was just a sea of black Tarmac. So we introduced Peter to a landscape designer friend who transformed the garden into a beautifully layered and detailed garden."

However, the garden landscaping took place at the same time as Phase I of the interior project, which occasionally posed an interesting hurdle. "It made life onsite a little difficult for our interior fit out as the access was very muddy due to large amounts of rain in the early part of the year," says Ally. But they overcame the issue and Phase I was completed much to everyone's satisfaction, meaning it was time for Phase II. "By the time we came to do Phase II Peter and Jane had great confidence in us and we were able to push the boundaries further," says Ally. "We felt the guest master bedroom and en-suite needed to have dramatic lighting and a link to the nature outside – so we introduced our printed tree trunks design on the headboard fabric and followed it through to the wallpaper in the en-suite. It makes the space fresh, unusual and unique."

The Davises's favourite room in the house following the redesign however is the garden lounge, with its patio doors that open out onto the outdoor area and boasts views of the Cumbria hills. "We love the garden lounge," says Peter. "Style-wise and functionally it's a fantastic space for us and the children to enjoy summer and winter. We couldn't be happier."

ADDRESS BOOK:

Fidget Design handled all aspects of the interior design for the home. **Contact Alison Tordoff owner of Fidget Design at ally@fidgetdesign.com. Alternatively visit: www.fidgetdesign.com or tel. 01539 488 235.**

The felt cushions in the garden living room are by Anne Kyyrö Quinn. **Visit: www.annekyyroquinn.com or tel. 0207 021 0702.**

The garden lounge bookcase was by Opus Incertum supplied by Lesco Products Ltd. **Visit: www.lesco.co.uk or tel. 01227 763 637.**

The bedside lights in the master guest bedroom are Agave Suspension by Luceplan from Made In Design. **Visit: www.madeindesign.co.uk or tel. 0207 692 4001.**

Printed headboard fabric and wallpaper in the master guest bedroom designed by Alison Tordoff. **Photography Jack Loan, tel. 01539 444 416.**

The main living room corner sofa, 'Loge' chairs and footstools were from Chaplins Furniture Ltd. **Visit: www.chaplins.co.uk or tel. 0208 421 1779.**

The floor lamp in the main lounge is the 'Twiggy' Floor Lamp in white from Icone Limited. **Visit: www.icone.co.uk or tel. 01332 866 430.**

Built-in wardrobes in the master bedroom were designed and supplied by Town And Country Interiors. **Visit: www.townandcountryinteriors.com or tel. 01228 592 727.**

ABOVE Funky shelving in Georgie and Harry's room makes for stylish kids' bedrooms.

GIRL'S BEDROOM »»»

Covering one wall in printed wallpaper creates a striking look, particularly using this gorgeous print by Osborne & Little. 'Grove Garden' wallpaper, £43 per roll.

««« MASTER BEDROOM

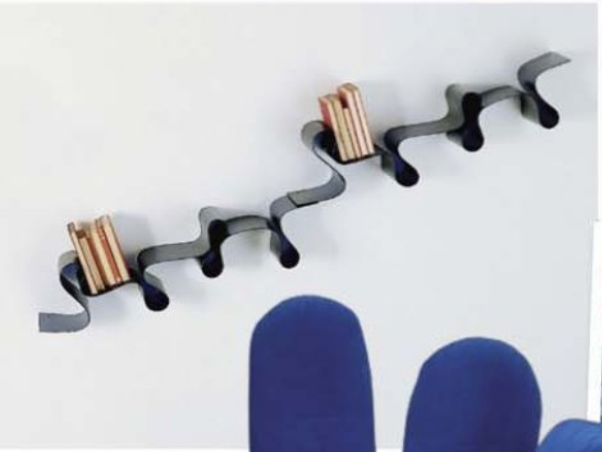
In the master bedroom simple cabinets and the use of white create a classic, relaxing boutique hotel feel. These Foscarini table lamps are perfect for displaying on a bedside table to get the look. Foscarini 'Lumiere' table light, from £197.72, Nest.

LIVING AREA

This structural pendant light is great if you want to create a focal point in your living area. Jane and Peter have gone for a classic Foscarini ceiling light, we've sourced a similar designed by Normann Copenhagen at Bodie and Fou for you. 'Norm 03 Stainless Steel' ceiling light, £580, Bodie and Fou.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Designer Ally Tordoff helped Jane and Peter achieve a fresh, contemporary and funky feel in their home. We love the zesty colour palette, so take a leaf out of the Davises's book and try neutral walls and colourful touches to achieve the look. **For stockist details see page 126**



««« GIRL'S BEDROOM

This cool curvy shelving adds an element of fun to a child's room. Why not steal Jane and Peter's idea from Georgie's room with the exact shelves? Kartell 'Lovely Rita' shelf, £124, Panik Design.

LIVING AREA

Throughout the house cushions in vibrant colours have been added to create an almost retro look. Interior designer Ally is a big fan of textile designer Anne Kyyrö Quinn, who uses texture to create unusual and unique designs. 'Leaf' cushion, from £150, Anne Kyyrö Quinn. 'Jules' cushion, £12.50, Habitat.

BOY'S BEDROOM

With cool blues and funky designs what little boy wouldn't want a room like Harry's? This royal blue chair grabbed our attention immediately, log on to www.hometemptations.com and get yours. OK! Swivel Hand Chair, £342.55.

GARDEN LOUNGE »»»

This classic glass-topped 'Noguchi' coffee table makes a statement in the Davises's living room. With its simple design and clean structure a piece of furniture like this will never date. 'Noguchi' coffee table, £149.99, Abode Interiors.

ABOVE A light and airy hallway is a welcoming entrance.
OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Jeremy's father designed and built the side table in the children's downstairs playroom; Ronnie the dog relaxes in the chic hallway; The Northerns add a personal touch to their space with family photos and keepsakes.

Keeping it in the family

A renovation in Wakefield has been given a Babington House-inspired redesign after returning to the family who originally built the home in 1900.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

Living in Wakefield and knowing they never really want to move away from the area Jeremy and Sarah Northern would often discuss the properties in the locale that they liked and would be interested in buying should they ever come on the market. One evening six years ago a chance discussion with a friend on this subject in their local pub started a fate-like chain of events. "A guy that we knew owned this house and we were just talking in the boozer about all the houses that we love in the area because we never really want to move from here," says Jeremy. "We told him we really liked his house and he said, 'Oh you're joking; I'm looking to sell.' So he told us to come around and have a look at it. And that's what we did."

A few days later the Northerns – who now have two daughters Ella, six and Emily, three – viewed the property and instantly knew it was for them. "We came round to have a look at it and we loved it," says Jeremy. "So we did a deal with him and the place never went on the market. We were really lucky to get it that way."

Although Jeremy and Sarah were excited about buying the property, at the time moving was the last thing on Sarah's mind as she was pregnant with their first child Ella. But the couple knew the upheaval was worth it because, as well as simply loving the style and size of the home they had special, more personal, reasons for wanting to own the property. "The house was built by Sarah's great grandfather," says Jeremy. "He built it in about 1900 and it was in Sarah's family up until mid-1970s. Sarah can remember coming to this house and playing when she was a child."

Sarah's family bought the land in 1898 – the Northerns have the deeds that contain the first mention of the house in 1903, so they know the property was built around 1900. The home passed from Sarah's great grandfather to her uncle who eventually sold the property and it then left the family for a few years. "A couple of other people owned the house, including this good friend of ours," says Jeremy. "So when we bought the home it was nice that the place was coming back into the family."

In fact Sarah's family history couldn't be more entwined in the property – her great grandmother »»»

ABOVE AND LEFT Following a complete renovation which included raising the ceiling in the kitchen and adding an extension, the kitchen area is now bigger, brighter and the perfect place for spending time as a family. **RIGHT** Orchids and fresh flowers around the home bring nature indoors creating a sense of simplicity and calm.

"The house was built by Sarah's great grandfather. He built it in about 1900 and it was in Sarah's family up until mid-1970s"

Ella, who Jeremy and Sarah's eldest daughter Ella is named after, was actually born in the house. Despite the links that clearly interested the Northerns in the property Jeremy says they never deliberately set out to bring the home back into the family. "It wasn't a conscious thing," he says. "But it's just nice that it's worked out that way. At the time Sarah didn't want to move because she was pregnant, but houses like this don't come on the market every day do they?"

Initially the Northerns left the property and its simple, neutral décor as it was when they moved in, but at the beginning of 2008 they decided it was time to stamp their personality and style on the home and chose to renovate the property. They added an extension to the kitchen, raised the ceiling – the old ceiling was a false, lowered one, and re-plastered all of the walls in the house among other things. "It probably took about five months in total," says Jeremy. "We started in January 2008 and we moved back here in the April, although there was still a lot to do."

While the home was being gutted the four Northerns and their two dogs sought refuge at Sarah's mother's house, which is conveniently just two miles up the road. "It was fine for us, but probably a nightmare for them," laughs Jeremy. "We were only supposed to be there about three weeks while the kitchen extension was being knocked through, but we were there for about two months in the end."

Once the building work and re-plastering was complete Jeremy and Sarah set about decorating the house and they knew exactly the look they were after. "We like the Babington House look," says Jeremy. "Sarah and I have been there a couple of times and we love it, so that was kind of the look we wanted – quite plain and simple. I don't like a lot of clutter. I like quite a minimalist look, but with… well, it's a family home at the end of the day." »»»

ABOVE A conservatory at the back of the house provides the perfect space for a contemporary dining set. **FAR LEFT** Photos are key to Jeremy and Sarah's sense of home style. **LEFT** A fireplace feels modern and welcoming thanks to a clear fireguard.

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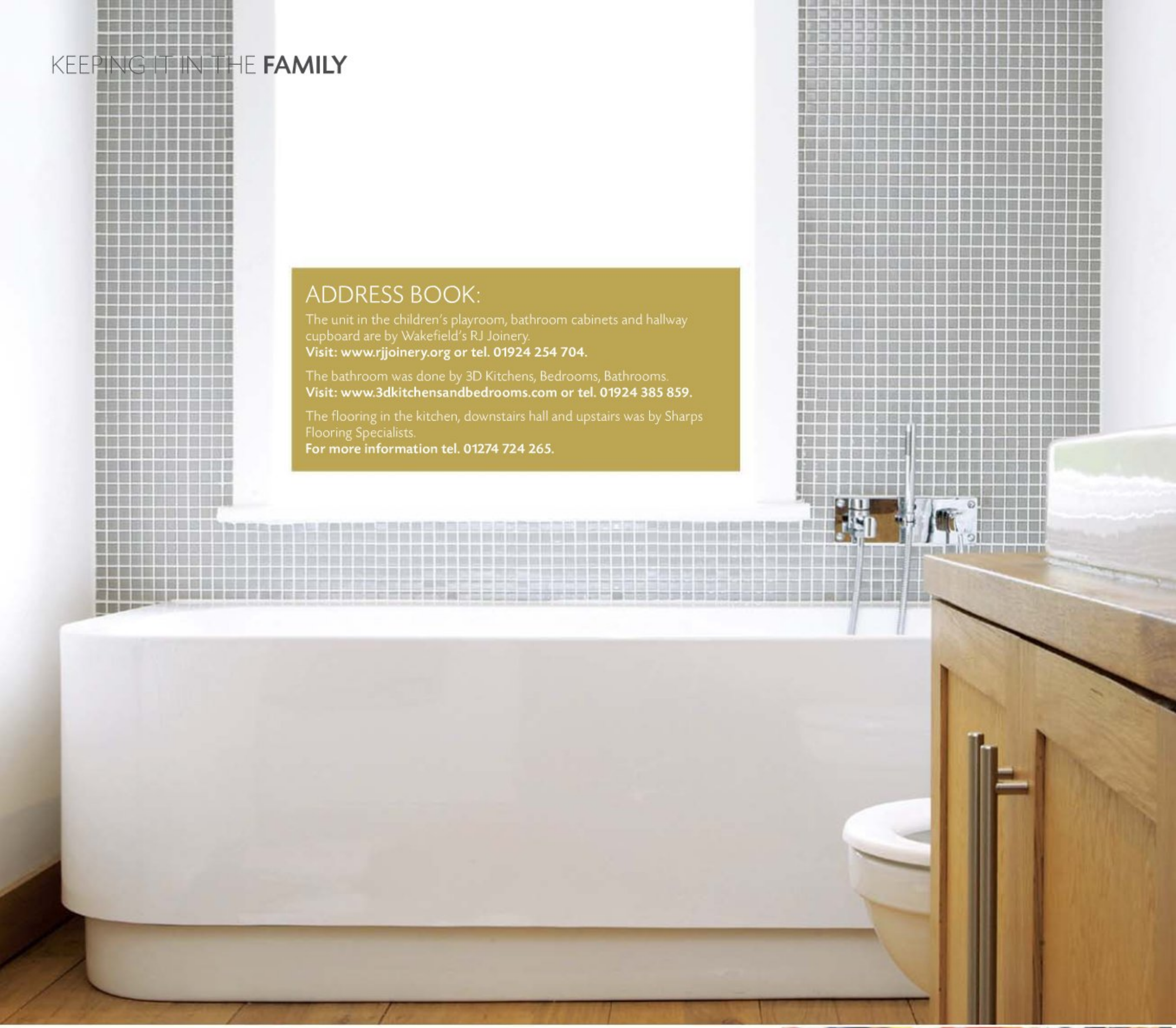


ADDRESS BOOK:

The unit in the children's playroom, bathroom cabinets and hallway cupboard are by Wakefield's RJ Joinery.
Visit: www.rjjoinery.org or tel. 01924 254 704.

The bathroom was done by 3D Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms.
Visit: www.3dkitchensandbedrooms.com or tel. 01924 385 859.

The flooring in the kitchen, downstairs hall and upstairs was by Sharps Flooring Specialists.
For more information tel. 01274 724 265.

"We like the Babington House look. Sarah and I have been there a couple of times and we love it, so that was kind of the look we wanted"

The upstairs comprises a beautifully light and spacious landing with stain-glass window, master bedroom, children's room, study, bathroom and guest room.

While the ground floor is made up of another gorgeous hallway, living room, dining room conservatory, children's play room, downstairs bathroom and the extended kitchen/dining area. "The kitchen's my favourite room in the house," says Jeremy. "It's a brilliant room for everyday living."

Meanwhile no aspect of the interior design was left un-thought of. Jeremy and Sarah's home has a lovely family feel running through it: from photographs to framed *Telegraph* newspaper front pages from the days Ella and Emily were born. "Everything has a story," says Jeremy. "The painting above the fireplace in the living room for example is a Russell Baker, but that was bought because Sarah's grandmother, Ella – who was born in this house – when she died she left Sarah some money and we wanted to do something special with it, so we bought that." Other touches include the photo gallery in the conservatory that includes a huge collection of black and white photographs, everything from Jeremy's parents getting married and Sarah's mum and dad on their wedding day to Ella and Emily as babies.

There are also some carefully chosen design pieces that serve to unite the décor of the house and provide a chic finishing touch to the rooms. "We tried to get everything the same when we were doing it," says Jeremy. "Like the Philippe Stark lights, we purposely put them all the way through the house to try and keep it all the same. I love that light design – I think it's really simple but beautiful."

Jeremy's response when *Concept* asks if they have a favourite purchase in the house sums up the Northerns' attitude to their home style however. "I don't really have a favourite buy as such," he muses. "I like the items that tell a story, like the menus on the wall in the kitchen from restaurants that Sarah and I have eaten in and enjoyed, the table in the kids' play room that my father designed and built or the painting in the living room. It's those that we love rather than the things that can just be bought."

ABOVE Under-sink storage allows the bathroom to be the clutter-free refreshing space that Sarah and Jeremy love. **LEFT** Little touches of Sarah and Jeremy's two children, Ella and Emily, creep into all rooms of the house including the study. **RIGHT** Jeremy and Sarah like a clean, simple interior look.

BATHROOM

Sarah and Jeremy love orchids and have displayed many in varying colours in their home. Take a leaf out of their book and visit Marks & Spencer to get yours. **Orchid**, £25, Marks & Spencer.

HALLWAY

Make a style statement in your hallway with a large silver lantern. This one which is just like Sarah and Jeremy's is from Heal's and gorgeous. You can also try BHS and TKMaxx for other similar variations. Tall 'Brompton' **lantern**, £130, Heal's.

THROUGHOUT

The Northerns love their tealights and these cute holders from Cloudberry Living are just the thing... 'Iittala Kivi' **tealight holder**, £8 each, Cloudberry Living.

BEDROOM

Whether used as a laundry basket or a toy tidy this basket from Peacock Blue is a great addition to any home. 'Ali Baba' **baskets**, £65, Peacock Blue.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Sarah and Jeremy Northern's home has a clean, crisp and chic Babington House style. We've picked our must-have items to help you get the look in your home... **For stockist details see page 126**

WALLS

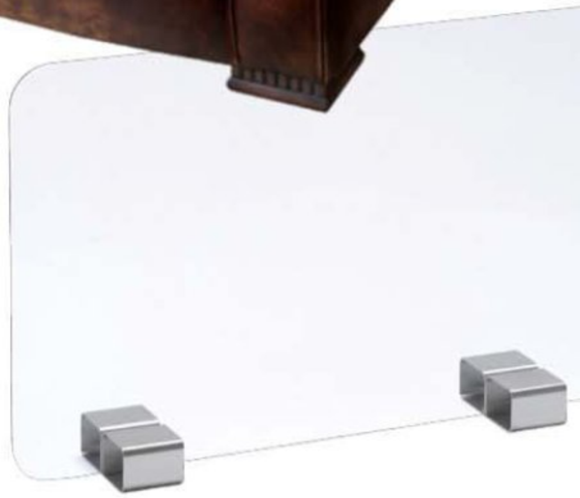
Sarah and Jeremy love family photos around the house and have a number of beautiful cluster frames. We've found these frames at Purves & Purves and A1 Gifts to cater for all your photographic needs! 'Mosh' multi wall **photo frame**, £55, Purves & Purves. Umbra 'Fotofalls' desktop **photo tree**, £19.95, A1 Gifts.

BEDROOM

A comfy occasional chair is a must-have in any bedroom, and this luxurious leather one just like Sarah and Jeremy's is no exception. 'Tetrad Totnes' **leather chair**, £1,075, John Lewis.

LIVING ROOM

Glass fireguards let the light spread into the room and also protect your lounge from any flying sparks. Try Amode for simple, stylish alternative versions. 'Bebop' glass **fireguard**, £219, Amode.



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Black or White

A minimalist apartment in Lancaster has a unique, completely monochrome design scheme and features classical Greek and Venetian objets d'art that give it a stunning theatrical twist.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

LEFT Black and white bedding plus artwork and flowers create a cool, cosmopolitan-feel bedroom. **CENTRE** Hallway flowers offering a vibrant splash of red are the only deviation from the colour palette and ensure a bold welcome. **RIGHT** The dining area is complete with a Bertolini Venetian 'Phanton Pantalone' mask.

ABOVE A monochrome colour scheme makes for a striking kitchen complete with colourful fruit bowl. **OPPOSITE** Paul and Wanda have carefully balanced minimalism and eye-catching home accessories.

"I've gone from 17th century antique-filled properties to a minimalist apartment. People thought I'd gone crazy because antiques were my life"

Paul Hill used to love antiques. He and his wife Wanda lived in several beautiful antique-filled houses before a sudden change of heart three years ago led the couple down a new interiors path. "I've gone from 17th century antique-filled properties to a minimalist apartment," says Paul. "I was mad about antiques then, so it's been a complete and utter change. People thought I'd gone crazy because antiques were my life. But old houses needed so much upkeep."

Two things led to Paul's style U-turn and his desire to buy the modern Heysham apartment in which he and Wanda now live. Firstly the apartment's view; it faces the Lancashire coast with stunning panoramic vistas of the bay, offers wide-open skies plus the Lake District National Park mountains on the horizon. And secondly, a visit to a similar property that proved inspirational. For the past ten years Paul and Wanda have made a living from buying houses, refurnishing them and then selling them on and moving a year or so later. As a result they spend a lot of time visiting other properties. "We'd seen some houses in a place called Storth near the River Kent," explains Paul. "The view right down to the sea was absolutely fabulous. And the properties we saw were all modern ones. I instantly said to Wanda, 'I've seen the light, we're moving.' Soon after I sold all the antiques, everything – everyone thought I was barmy."

Having seen the Storth properties Paul now had in mind the exact home he wanted next and set about finding the perfect place. "I used to drive around all the places where I was interested in finding a property," he says. "I'd drive around every street and then write to the people of the particular houses I wanted." And he was careful to consider every aspect of the potential property. "If it was a house I'd to look to see if there were any trees in the way of the view, then I'd write letters. I wrote letters to the two top floors here and to this one. And that's how we came to get this place." »»»

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ABOVE The guest bedroom is a cool and inviting place to rest. **TOP RIGHT** A bold theme can completely transform a bathroom. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Paul and Wanda have left no design aspect un-thought of.

"We travel around looking for items to accessorise the apartment. We do pride ourselves on sourcing a lot of our things in the North"

The Hills moved into the apartment in November 2007 and immediately began completely changing the décor and realising Paul's monochrome vision. "It was horrible when we moved in," he says. "It was all brown and dark with dark carpets." The couple tackled the project room-by-room, starting with the kitchen, then the two bathrooms, followed by the master bedroom and guest room. They knew they wanted to create a sophisticated, minimalist space. Paul and Wanda finished the design seven months later with the study, entrance lobby/hallway and living/dining area – a room whose palette, despite its black and white scheme, changes with the time of day. "We love the brightness of the living room," says Paul. "Because of the large windows you also get a reflection in the room such as the blue from outside and it makes it absolutely beautiful. And in the evening when the sun's going down we get reds and pinks on the wall."

From the minute you enter the Hills' apartment there is no doubt as to the colour scheme. The entrance hall sets the tone with its clean white walls and floor, crisp white doors and radiator and elegant large white mirror and Greek objets d'art, which are offset by a sumptuous, rich black rug and a striking large black vase containing black and red flowers. Interestingly, the handful of red flowers in the hallway is the only deviation from the apartment's colour scheme, bar the colourful fruit in the kitchen fruit bowl. "I don't know if it spoils the idea; I was in two minds about it," says Paul. "But I do like red. And it acts as a welcome."

Meanwhile, explaining his love of black and white, he says, "I love sharp colours. I find black and white very modern. Some people may find it very clinical, but to me it's clean. And it's not an easy colour choice; it takes some looking after. When you've got black furnishings, such as black carpets and the worktops, every tiny bit of dust shows. So when it's clean you know it's clean, and everybody else does too." »»»

ADDRESS BOOK:

Many of the Greek objets d'art in the apartment were sourced from It's All Greek. **Visit: www.itsallgreek.co.uk or tel. 0207 242 6224.**

The bedroom clock and living room sofa are from Westpark Interiors. **Visit: www.westparkinteriors.co.uk for more information.**

The white dining table and chairs are from Böhm. **Visit: www.bohmfurniture.co.uk or tel. 0161 792 2882.**

The black wardrobe in the master bedroom is from Nolte Mobel Ltd (Skipton showroom). **Tel. 01756 700 456.**

The bathroom was done by Bathtime. **Visit: www.bathtimenw.co.uk or tel. 01524 33939 for further details.**

The large white hallway mirror is from Interiors of Knutsford. **Visit: www.interiors-knutsford.co.uk or tel. 01565 750 304.**

All bathroom and kitchen tiles are from Ceramic Collections, Kendal. **Visit: www.ceramiccollections.co.uk or tel. 01539 741 155.**

ABOVE LEFT The stunning high-gloss kitchen units are in keeping with the contemporary style of the apartment and provide ideal storage to help maintain the uncluttered look that Paul and Wanda like. **ABOVE RIGHT** Greek and Venetian touches add to the home's elegant ambiance.

"I love sharp colours. I find black and white very modern. Some people may find it very clinical, but to me it's clean"

The Hills spent a great deal of time and care sourcing the furniture and home accessories to complete their design project from a variety of local and generally Northern-based sources. The sleek white occasional chairs in the master bedroom are from Dwell, the statement white living room sofa and striking clock in the master bedroom are from Westpark Interiors, while the occasional chair in the living room is from Stocktons and the lounge area window sill statuette was found in Harrogate's Caroline Gardener design studio. "We travel around," says Paul. "We like to spend time looking for items to go in the apartment and we do pride ourselves on finding a lot of things in the North."

Some items did come from further afield however. The Hills' home has several unique items, from Greek pieces such as a Nike (the goddess of Victory in Ancient Greek mythology) white plaque, to Venetian costume masks. "I like having things that other people don't have in their houses," says Paul. "But it's difficult. Like the masks, those are beautiful. They're handmade and they were really difficult to get hold of. And the Nike, we've had that for years, but we love that."

As well as their home's décor, the Hills' other favourite aspect of their unique space is the apartment's view – their main reason for choosing the home in the first place. They have a permanent front row seat to the tide changes, sunsets and the changing skies. "It's high tide at 6am and 6pm," says Paul. "If it's a rough sea it sounds marvellous and even if it's a light sea I've got some wind chimes and you can hear them tinkling away.

"This is also the route for the airplanes coming from America," he says. "They go straight overhead." While Wanda adds, "When the sky is a darkish colour, like it is first thing in the morning, all the plane trails show up really well. You really couldn't ask for a better view out of your living room window."

MAIN BATHROOM

Continuing with the monochrome feel Paul and Wanda have added black and white towels to both their main bathroom and en-suite, simply accessorise with our bathroom finds to create the same feel in your home. Towels start from £2 and available from Debenhams.

MAIN BEDROOM

We've picked out the perfect bedding from House Of Fraser to get the black and white look. This 'Boutique' bed linen starts from £18 and is a must-have for making a statement – it's what Paul and Wanda's apartment is all about.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

With a monochrome theme running throughout their home Paul and Wanda's apartment has style and sophistication. If you like the look, we've sourced some great buys to get you started. **For stockist details see page 126**

GUEST BEDROOM

For the ultimate statement accessory, add a chic black lamp to your bedroom. We love the choice of lighting throughout Paul and Wanda's apartment; they have carefully chosen pieces that suit their style well. You can do the same with a 'Scroll' light from the French Bedroom Company priced at £195.

LOUNGE

Paul and Wanda have chosen a white leather sofa in the lounge area to create a contemporary and clean feel, try it yourself with a similar design, the 'Elisa' sofa from Darlings of Chelsea starts from £880.

MAIN BEDROOM

Paul and Wanda chose the 'Circles' chair from Dwell, priced at £89, for an extra on-trend furniture addition to their main bedroom. Perfect for relaxing in the 'Circles' chair can transform a room in an instant.

LOUNGE

It's All Greek is a favourite store of Paul and Wanda's and throughout their apartment you can find a hint of Greek mythology, which is a love of theirs. Capture history in your home with a similar piece, we love the 'Chariot Rider' priced at £175.

ENTRANCE

First impressions are the most important, get the look with this similar mirror from The French Bedroom Company priced at £395 – it's the perfect wow factor accessory.

OPPOSITE Gaudí-inspired curved walls create a harmonious balance of man-made structure and nature. **BELOW** Slate and cedar structures complement the garden's vibrant foliage.

Earth, Wind and *Fire*

A suburban garden in Leeds combines innovative architectural design with meticulous planting to create a haven for people and wildlife alike.

Words **Jennie Musgrove**   Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

OPPOSITE A 'wetland strip' beside the pond provides the perfect home for water-loving plants. **BELOW** Beehives, welly stands and edible flowers are just some of the garden's quirky features!

"The children absolutely love it out here. They spend ages sitting on the edge of the pond with a margarine tub, fetching bugs out and just looking at them, watching for newts and frogs"

When Kathy and Jonathan Jones renovated their semi-detached house in Leeds, they wanted a garden that would not only complement the home's chic interior design but also provide an outdoor living space which could be enjoyed by all. The architects working on the home recommended Malton-based landscape designers Stephen Bean Associates, and Jonathan Wilson and Ian Scott came up with an inventive scheme which enhances the garden's difficult levels.

"In very broad terms, the brief was to work with the levels and make something exciting," said Stephen Bean. "The clients also wanted to bring a lot of wildlife into the garden, so there are hedgehog habitats, solitary bee homes, nesting boxes and sparrow halls. We've created not just a nice place for the people that live here, but also a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna."

Kathy and Jonathan wanted to introduce a natural balance of wildlife so that their four children could learn while playing; an idea which has proven successful, as the children now spend most of their time around the pond, as Kathy explained: "The children absolutely love it out here; at the weekend, they're out here from the minute they've had breakfast. They spend ages sitting on the edge of the pond with a margarine tub, fetching bugs out and just looking at them, watching for newts and frogs."

The pond is just one key element of the garden; other features include a terrace with fire-pit and seating area, a willow dome, garden 'pod' providing shelter in case of rain and tree house for the children. Two curved walls create an impression of a Mediterranean garden, although to start with, Kathy was concerned they might overwhelm the rest of the space. "When they started building the walls it was a bit frightening," she said. "Because the structures are so big, it would be easy for them to be overpowering, so we really had to think about planting. Stephen »»»

BELOW Kathy and Jonathan can relax on the chic garden furniture, while the kids still have plenty of room to play in.

"Because the structures are so big, it would be easy for them to be overpowering. Stephen and I spent hours looking at books and going round garden centres, looking for things that would fit in"

and I spent hours looking at books and going round garden centres, looking for things that would fit in and not be dwarfed by the structures."

The curved walls in the style of Antoni Gaudí were created to give the garden a Spanish feel, and were also rendered to match the style of the house. "When it's hot you don't feel like you're in Leeds at all," said Kathy.

In order to create a coherent and unified garden, Stephen and his team looked at the two very different aspects that dominated the garden – light and shade. "A hot garden and a foliage garden are not usually in the same place: they're completely different," said Stephen. "The key was to work with the levels, so that when you're on the terrace you look down and see foliage, and when you're on the grass you see the terrace."

The contrasting sections of light and shade within the garden meant that a wide variety of plants could be introduced, creating an arresting display of colour and pattern. "There are round leaves contrasting against the bamboo, tree ferns which are a Jurassic plant, potted herbs on the terrace which grow in a hot, dry climate, wild strawberries, olives, grapes, fig trees… There are quite a lot of edible flowers as well. It's about getting lots of colour and experience in the space."

And if you are overwhelmed by all the different sights and sounds of the garden, there are plenty of secluded seating areas placed strategically to provide spots in which to enjoy the vista. "I wanted there to be lots of places in the garden where you could just sit and be quiet," said Kathy.

With an abundance of plants and wildlife and a contemporary design to match, Stephen believes the landscape his team has created is much more than just a garden. "A lot of people have a misnomer about gardens, that a garden is an agricultural place for vegetables, and maybe a bit of grass, but this is actually a room: it's an outdoor living room."

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BELOW The picture-perfect scene is completed with waterproof outdoor cushions, supplied by Stehanie Hill of Uffizzi Interiors.

"A lot of people have a misnomer that a garden is an agricultural place, but this is actually a room: it's an outdoor living room"

ADDRESS BOOK:

The garden was designed by Jonathan Wilson, Ian Scott and Stephen Bean of SBA.
Visit: www.sba-design.co.uk, email: enquiries@sba-design.co.uk or call 01653 690 367.

The outdoor seats on the terrace and the grass are from online furniture company PR Inside Out.
Visit: www.prinsideout.co.uk.

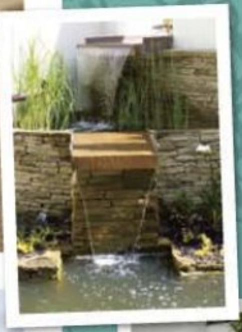
Stephanie Hill of Uffizzi Interiors worked as a consultant, designer and supplier for the home's interior and exterior.
Call 0797 362 6222 or email: uffizzi.interiors.ltd@gmail.com to get in touch.

Leeds-based architectural and interior design company Think Design designed the house.
Call 01943 604 448 or visit: www.thinkdesignleeds.co.uk to find out more.

Finite Solutions fitted the house, inside and outside, with integrated audiovisual technology.
Tel. 0113 255 4742, email: leeds@finitesolutions.co.uk or visit: www.finitesolutions.co.uk

THE FOUR ELEMENTS

Kathy and Jonathan's garden appeals to all the senses with its edible flowers, wide variety of colours and shapes and sensual camomile patches. On top of this, Stephen Bean made sure all four elements could be found in the space – here's the how and why:



WATER

The sound of trickling water creates a relaxing atmosphere in any garden. Better still, it drowns out unwanted noises, as Stephen explained: "If you get running water in a garden, you don't hear traffic. It's one of the best, most effective ways of reducing urban sound pollution – and it isn't an offensive sound."

FIRE

A large fire-pit, designed by Stephen, takes centre stage on the terrace and means Kathy and Jonathan can stay outside till late without getting cold. "It was lovely last Saturday, we had loads of friends and family round and we were out till midnight," said Kathy. "We had the fire going, speakers underneath the bench playing music, and behind the larger door on the terrace there's a fridge full of beer!"

EARTH

A bog garden containing Gunneras and other moisture-loving plants adds further interest to the garden. "Bog gardens are about two months behind in any garden because they're so cold," said Stephen. An underground 3,500 litre rainwater harvester nearby supplies water to the bog and ensures the whole garden is irrigated efficiently.

AIR

A series of horizontal copper poles are suspended above the terrace, with grape vines and wisteria growing along them. "The idea is that once the grapes get going, they'll form a sort of canopy and provide some shade," said Kathy. Another shady area can be found underneath the willow dome, which provides a beautiful leafy view when you crawl inside!

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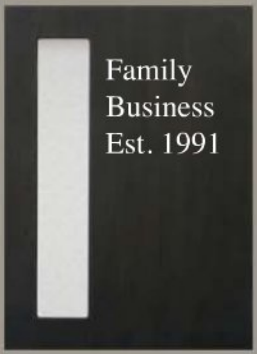

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TREND UP

This month *Concept For Living* sought out the latest trends for the kitchen and bathroom. From top taps to bold kitchens here's a collection of eye-catching suites along with tips from the experts.

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

'St Moritz' bath, £1,775, Fired Earth.

BOLD IS BEAUTIFUL

KITCHEN

BATHROOM

"VIBRANT COLOURS SUCH AS REDS AND AUBERGINES, WHICH JUSTIFIED THEIR EXISTENCE CONTINUE TO GROW IN POPULARITY FOR THE REST OF 2009."

Norman Parker, Kütchenhaus Managing Director

FROM TOP: KITCHENS Pistachio and marrone kitchen, from £180 for a 600mm base unit, William Ball. 'Ravenna' kitchen, from £12,000, Kitchens International. 'Xeno' kitchen, from £6,603, Kütchenhaus. BATHROOMS 'Mimo' collection, from £149.50 for a bath rail, Ripples. 'Lilac' collection, from £300 for a washbasin, Aquaplus Solutions. 'Domino' furniture, from £700 for a vanity unit, C.P. Hart.

FANCY FREESTANDING

KITCHEN

BATHROOM

"FREESTANDING UNITS ARE THE CURRENT TREND, INSTALLATION IS COST EFFECTIVE AND ONLY TAKES A MATTER OF HOURS."

Leila Roberts, Kitchen Category Manager for Fired Earth

FROM TOP: KITCHENS 'Helena' range, from £190 for 600mm base unit, William Ball. Schiffini 'Mesa' kitchen, from £25,000, Design Space London. Ultra high gloss kitchen, from £10,000, Kitchen Stori. BATHROOMS 'Definity' freestanding bath, £1,541.49, Utopia. Bath '47', from £3,885, Scope Bathrooms. 'Space' bath, from £5,726, Aquaplus Solutions.

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KITCHEN

BATHROOM

"WHEN PLANNING ON STORAGE IT'S IMPORTANT TO WORK WITH A GOOD DESIGNER, CAREFULLY PLAN EACH ELEMENT SO THAT NO SPACE IS WASTED AND EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE"

Sally Wilkinson, Director of Design for Smallbone of Devizes

FROM TOP: KITCHENS 'KI' plate holder, £124 for 2, Kitchens International. Utilty bucket, £20, The Contemporary Home. BATHROOMS Contemporary cabinet, from £680, Alape. 'Domino' furniture, vanity units from £700, C.P Hart.

TOUCH OF **ELEGANCE**

KITCHEN

BATHROOM

"NEUTRALS WILL BE BIG NEWS IN THE COMING YEAR, AND WILL BE ANYTHING BUT DREARY OR SAFE! SOOTHING HUES OF LATTE, STONE AND CHALKY WHITE LOOK VERY EXCITING"

Terry Ball, Managing Director of William Ball

FROM TOP: KITCHENS 'Pura' kitchen, from £7,345, Kütchenhaus. High gloss kitchen, from £10,000, In-toto Kitchens.
BATHROOMS 'Arc' furniture, from £1,210, Vogue Bathrooms. 'Reserva' suite, from £399, RAK Ceramics. 'Sienna' collection, from £489.36, Utopia.

TOP **TAPS**

KITCHEN

BATHROOM

"ALTHOUGH MINIMALIST DESIGNS CONTINUE TO BE VERY POPULAR, WE WILL SEE A MOVE AWAY FROM HARSH ANGULAR LINES IN TAPS TO A SOFTER CLASSICAL STYLE, SOFTER SHAPES AND MORE OPULENCE."

Clare Svendsen, Senior Designer of Ripples Chester

MAIN IMAGE 'Avebury' wall mounted vessel, £495, Fired Earth. **FROM LEFT: KITCHENS** 'Titan' mixer, from £306, Brass & Traditional Sinks. 'Ono Highflex' tap, from £920, KWC Faucets. Boiler house mixer tap, £450, Fired Earth. **BATHROOMS** 'Onyx' bath and shower mixer, £190, Moods Bathrooms. 'Crosswater Artist' basin tap, from £499, Scope Bathrooms. 'Moko Mono' basin tap, from £399, Ripples.

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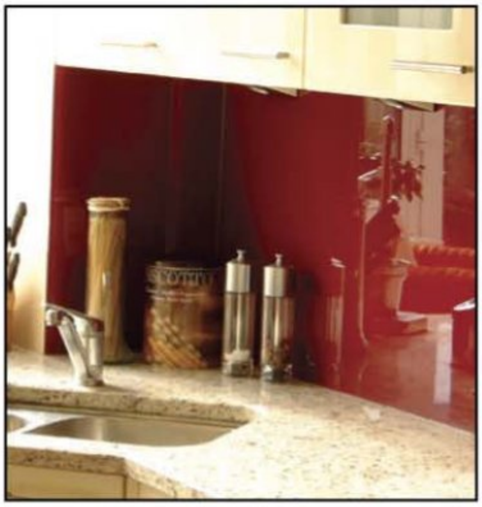
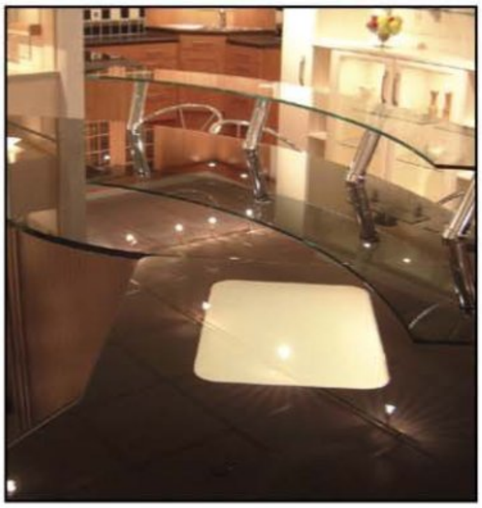

Glass Splashbacks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0161 766 2451

Stylist **Katie Cotgrave** Photographer **Eleri Griffiths**
Assistants **Claire Birch & Faye Parsons** Location **Albert Mill, Manchester**

OFF THE WALL

Bring the outside in with our nature-inspired shoot. Focusing on floral and leaf prints these wallpapers are sure to brighten up any room in the house.

For stockists see page 126

Antique ladder, Sandra Harris. **WALLPAPER FROM LEFT** 'Tree Tops' blue wallpaper, £67.53 per roll, Jocelyn Warner. 'Florice' by Jane Churchill, £38 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Hazel Wind' wallpaper, £55 per roll, kuboaa ltd. 'Roseworth' by Jane Churchill, £36 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Alyssa' by Jane Churchill, £34 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Bayswater' wallpaper, £32 per roll, Blendworth.

FROM LEFT 'Mina Orchid' wallpaper, £56.75 per metre, James Brindley. 'Strand' fabric from the Calypso collection, £33.95 per metre, Natasha Marshall. 'Montville' by Jane Churchill, £38 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Linden' wallpaper, £32 per roll, Blendworth. 'Richmond' wallpaper, £41 per roll, Osborne & Little. 'Harvest' hand-printed wallpaper, £150 per roll, Katherine Morris Design. Wine crate, £18, Drew Pritchard.

STOOL Surpar Red egg shell paint, £34.95 for 2.5l, Fired Earth. **WALLPAPER FROM LEFT** 'Castagna' wallpaper, £31 per roll, Harlequin. 'Olinda' wallpaper by Jane Churchill, £34 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Ellenton' wallpaper by Jane Churchill, £34 per roll, Colefax and Fowler. 'Melville' wallpaper by Jane Churchill, £36 per roll, Colefax and Fowler.

DON'T MISS OUR **WEBSITE!**

Log on now to discover the latest northern design news, readers' homes, best design buys, product launches, seasonal trends and industry profiles!
Find us at: www.conceptforliving.co.uk

WIN!

ALESSI PRODUCTS ***PLUS*** AN ORIGINAL PAINTING!

Leeds' favourite contemporary gift wear shop Cadeaux (www.cadeaux-leeds.com) is offering *Concept For Living* readers the chance to win two luxury Alessi kitchenwear items: a sleek pepper mill by Peter Zumthor for Alessi and a complete pasta set comprising a pan with mirror polished stainless steel lid, trivet and serving spoon by Alain Ducasse and Patrick Jouin for Alessi – two perfect choices for any chic kitchen.

Along with the modern kitchenwear Cadeaux is also giving away a beautiful painting *Piccadilly Circus* by Henderson Cisz that would make a fantastic contemporary addition to any living room.

To enter just head to www.conceptforliving.co.uk. Three separate winners will be selected at random. Competition closes at midnight 18 August 2009. Terms and conditions apply.

If you are tempted by the gifts above visit Cadeaux's new website for other products that can be delivered direct to your door: www.cadeaux-leeds.com.

Marquees for every occasion

Outback Marquees
For every occasion

Outback Marquees - Whether you're looking to arrange an uber cool 21st birthday party, a family wedding, a chic celebratory supper or a black tie dinner for 500, Outback Marquees can provide the perfect venue.

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When it comes to housing outdoor events, Outback Marquees has an enviable reputation as a highly professional organisation with bags of experience.
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- Parties
- Private hospitality events
- Exhibitions
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- Product launches

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No event is too large or too small for us.
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Where do we operate?

We work mainly in **North Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire** and **the Wirral** but will always consider events further afield. Talk to us wherever you are...

Unit 2a, Bryn-Y-Pys Farm, Wrexham Road, Overton, Wrexham LL13 0HG
Telephone: 0845 543 0167 Email: Info@outbackmarquees.co.uk
www.outbackmarquees.co.uk

An Explosion of Colour & Passion

KERRY DARLINGTON EXHIBITION

Artist Kerry Darlington will be joining us on Saturday 1st August 2009 to launch her amazing new works, exclusively to customers of The Watergate Street Gallery. You are invited to meet Kerry and view a very special exhibition that will continue throughout August. All works are for sale.

The Watergate Street Gallery

60 Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LA
t: 01244 345 698
www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk/exhibition.htm

'Arctic Granite' paving, from £30 per square metre, Stonemarket.

GARDEN TREATS

Add some character to your garden and accessorise with our selection of garden art delights.

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

SCULPTURES & DÉCOR

For stockists see page 126.

Make a statement and impress your summer visitors with a contemporary sculpture or delightful décor idea.

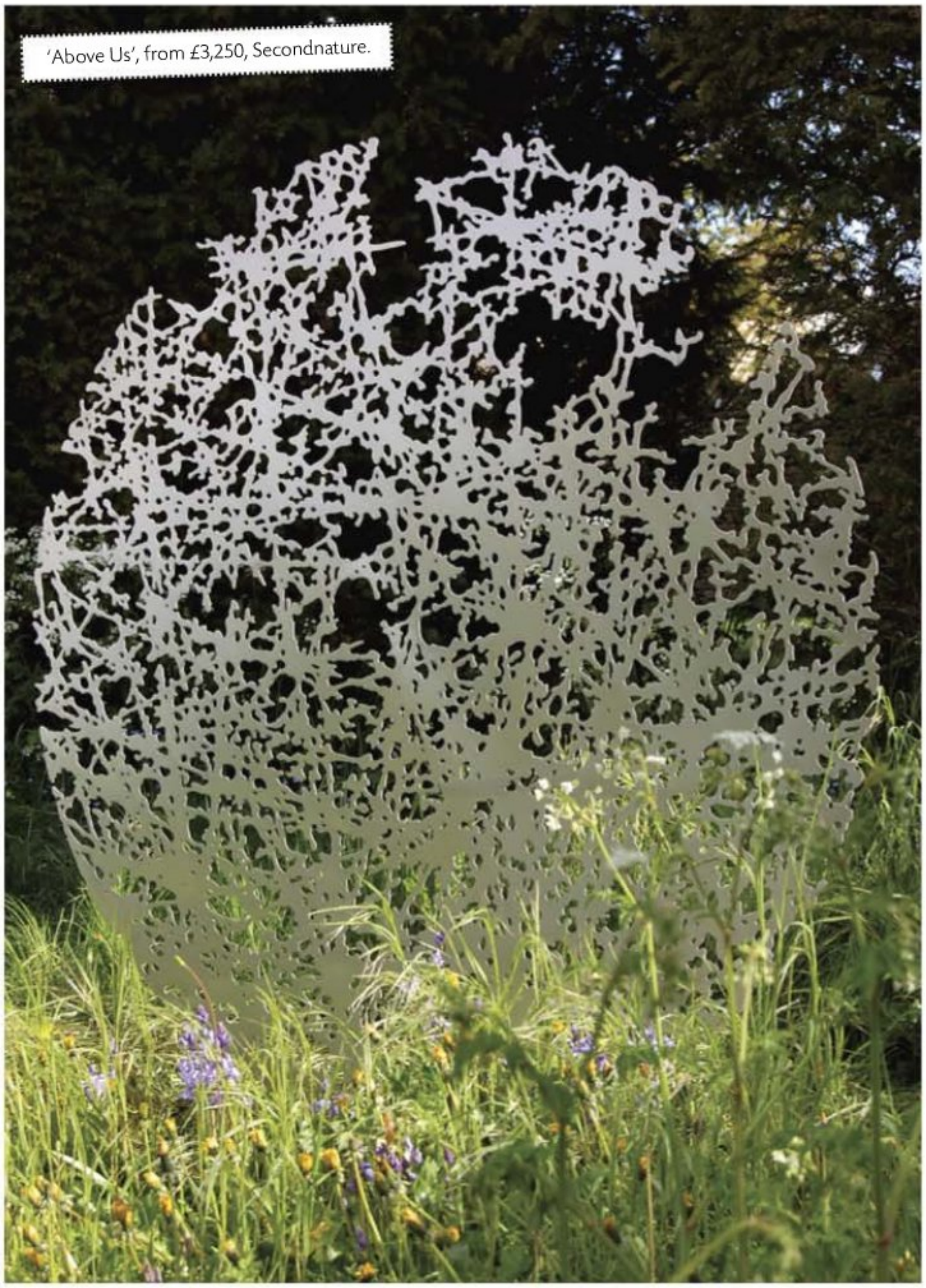
Garden Flames, from £170, Edge Company.

'Broad Leaf' décor, £74, Edge Company.

'Cube' collection, £90, Haddonstone.

Garden Spires, from £90, Edge Company.

'Mali' rosenpot, £11.99, Deroma.



'Above Us', from £3,250, Secondnature.

Red blur, £245, Garden Ambiance.

'Surfboard Trellis' wirework, from £440, The Chelsea Gardener.

GARDEN LIGHTING

Light up the garden and make it an ideal place for alfresco dining with our pretty and chic accessories.

Hanging lanterns, £19.99, Asleigh & Burnwood.

Bamboo lantern, £18, Garden Trading.

Dragonfly lights, £24.99, The Contemporary Home.

Star Lantern, £64, English Lamp Company.

SUNDIALS

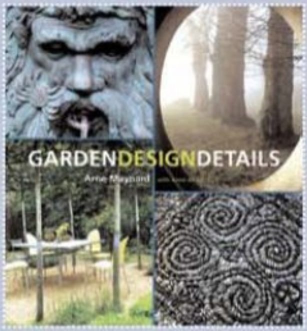
Celebrate the sunshine with one of these clever garden ornaments.

Recycled sundial, £26.95, Ecotopia.

'Arcadian' wall sundial, £119, Haddonstone.

Antique sandstone sundial, £1,800, Agos.

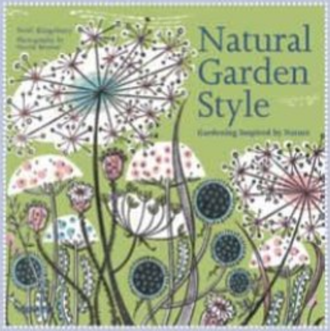
GARDEN DESIGN & STYLE BOOKS



Garden Design Details
BY ARNE MAYNARD

Published by Octopus Publishing Group
Priced: £20

The perfect sourcebook for ideas for the garden, *Garden Design Details* discusses the visual elements of a garden shown through a selection of case studies. Included are photographs, design information and lots of practical advice for every type of garden packed full of ideas to show how to make best use out of your garden.



Natural Garden Style: Gardening Inspired by Nature
BY NOEL KINGSBURY

Published by Merrell Publishers
Priced: £29.95

Gardening expert Noel Kingsbury provides a variety of approaches in making gardens celebrate nature. For those wishing to take an ethical and sustainable approach to gardening and design *Natural Garden Style* is the perfect guide, dealing with all aspects of natural-style gardening combined with beautiful photography all can be achieved.

OFFICE ROMANCE

It's important that a home office is not only a practical place to work but comfortable too. Fall in lust with our array of funky furniture and storage ideas to complete your personal workspace in an instant.

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

MAIN IMAGE 'Diapason' desk, £2,840, Roche Bobois. **OPPOSITE FROM TOP** Classic Office range, from £1,495 for an office chair, Heal's. Royal black desk, £725, Graham and Green. Writing table, £1,625, And So To Bed.

DESKS

It's important to have a clear workspace, with one of our delightful desks all can be achieved. **For stockists see page 126.**

ANTICLOCKWISE FROM BELOW 'ESU' desk unit, from £817, The Lollipop Shoppe. Leather desk, £495, Dwell. 'Miss Bean' desk, £2,311, Roche Bobois. 'Shagreen' collection desk, from £3,500, Smallbone of Devizes. Home office desk, from £669, CPW Furniture.

STORAGE UNITS

All your work needs to be accessible, pick from one of our handy storage units to minimise stress. **For stockists see page 126.**

FROM LEFT 'Bisley' filing cabinet, £100, Heal's. Rolly storage unit, £315, Amode. 'NIC' storage unit, £149, Habitat.

CHAIRS

Sit comfortably in one of our cosy chairs, ideal for productive working. **For stockists see page 126.**

BELOW FROM LEFT Curved office chair, £155, Dwell. 'Eames' side chair, £323, The Lollipop Shoppe. 'Hydra G' chair, from £350, Bonaldo. 'Glove' chair, by Conran £1,590, Darlings of Chelsea.

LIGHTS

Work though the night with the added concentration of a luxury work top light. **For stockists see page 126.**

FROM LEFT 'Miss K' lamp, £184, Rume. 'Maya' table lamp, £80, BHS. 'Angleposie' lamp, £130, John Lewis. Table lamp, £29.99, Lisbeth Dahl.

All photographed on display in our showroom

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A LUXURY KITCHEN CAN BE A MAJOR INVESTMENT…ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE DETERMINED TO HAVE A DESIGNER LABEL. BUT HERE'S THE CATCH. WITHOUT THE DESIGNER LABEL (WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, YOU CAN'T SEE ANYWAY) IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE SAME BESPOKE DESIGN, THE SAME FLAIR, THE SAME QUALITY AND THE SAME SERVICE…AT A CONSIDERABLY LOWER PRICE.
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Stylist **Katie Cotgrave**
Photographer **Eleri Griffiths**

The American Dream

Thanks to Obama, plus a great graphic flag, America's cool again. So take a trip Stateside with bold reds and striking stripes-inspired cushions and throws – no eight-hour flight required!

For stockists see page 126.

FROM LEFT Arts and crafts cushion, £42 + £5 for cushion pad, by Lexington, from James Brindley of Harrogate. Star pillow, £42 + £5 cushion pad, by Lexington, from James Brindley of Harrogate. Basket, £68, Drew Pritchard. American military flag, £12, Drew Pritchard. 'Liberty' cushion, £75, Jan Constantine. 'Crimson' mohair throw, £55, Atlantic Blanket Company. Globe, £30, Drew Pritchard. Victorian pine travel chest, £220, Drew Pritchard. Cushions, from £40, Montgomery. Coat stand, from a selection, Second Circle Furniture. 'Let Freedom Ring' quilt, £50, Olde Glory. Navy molte blanket, £85, Atlantic Blanket Company. Claret throw, £150, Heal's.

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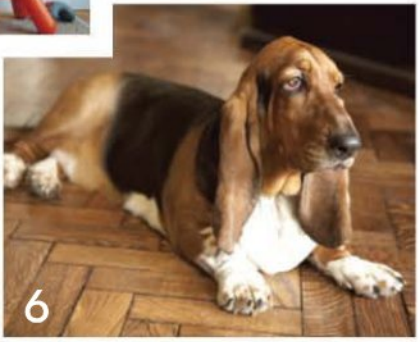

NORTHERN HOTSPOTS

Whether you're looking for a gift, statement item or design classic, finding the perfect piece can be a tricky task. We've made it easy by revealing our favourite big and small shopping spots in the North!

ARMSTRONG WARD LIFESTORE, KENDAL

8 Wainwrights Yard, Kendal LA9 4DP
Tel. 01539 720 400
Open Mon to Sat 9.30am to 5.30pm, Sun and Bank Holidays 11am to 4pm
www.armstrongward.co.uk

Best for its jam-packed children's department

Armstrong Ward was established by husband and wife team, Jacqueline and Andrew Ward, in October 2005 and houses a fabulous selection of established names such as Emma Bridgewater, Lexington, Cath Kidston and Jan Constantine alongside niche and local designers. You'll also find British-made furniture from John Sankey and Duresta and a delightful children's department filled with traditional and quirky toys and gifts – including everything from wellies to wigwams!

If you're lucky enough to be in the Lake District this summer, this shop is one to make a beeline for.

COLLOCO HOMEWARE & GIFTS, LEEK

5-7 Sheepmarket, Leek Staffordshire ST13 5HN
Tel. 01538 382 615
Open Mon to Fri 10am to 5pm, Sat 9am to 5pm
www.colloco.co.uk

Best for its fabulous selection of quirky gifts

If you're looking for home products which are not only stylish and individual but also functional, pop into Colloco. Located in a Grade II-listed building in the market town of Leek, the store features products from well-known names alongside smaller independent labels. There are design classics aplenty, with an extensive collection of Newgate clocks and retro dial telephones as well as a variety of traditional children's toys. Brands such as KitchenAid, Dualit and Maxwell & Williams can be found in the kitchen range, and the store's stationery section features notebooks from Orla Kiely.

And if that's not enough reason to pop in, Colloco celebrates its second birthday on 29 August, with a number of special offers for customers visiting that day.

SNOWHOME, YORK

42 Gillygate, York YO31 7EQ
Tel. 01904 671 155
Open Mon to Sat 10am to 5pm (Mon to Sun during Nov and Dec)
www.snow-home.co.uk

Best for its selection of charming hand-picked products

Since Royal College of Art graduate Angus McArthur founded Snowhome in 2001, the store has earned a reputation as the place to go for contemporary home items with character. Its ethos is that good design and beautiful objects have a positive impact and need not be prohibitively expensive – the result is an eclectic collection of everything from clocks, lamps and doorstops to posters, notebooks and mugs. By carefully sourcing stand-out items from far and wide, Snowhome steers clear of mainstream products and offers a fun alternative to the run-of-the-mill.

LE CHIEN ET MOI, NOTTINGHAM

60 Derby Road, Nottingham NG1 5FD
Tel. 0115 979 9199
Open Tue to Sat 10.30am to 5.30pm or by appointment
www.lechienetmoi.com

Best for its inspiring mix of old and new

Housed in an elegant listed building and styled with a hint of nostalgia, Le Chien Et Moi is a treasure trove of all things beautiful. Antique, vintage and recycled pieces for the home and garden sit alongside new products with traditional roots such as hand-built Italian bicycles, French linens, letterpress stationery and jewellery from Japan, New York and Nottingham.

Owners Pip and Andrew Bolton are experts at sourcing little-known products by artists and designers from around the world to display in their store, which also showcases Portugese notebooks, handmade Swedish brushes and artisan chocolate. Best of all is Mulberry, the store's resident basset hound who greets all customers with a friendly wag!

1 Colloco's colourful window display, Leek. **2** An eclectic collection of prints and cards at Snowhome, York. **3, 4 & 6** Mulberry the dog lives in style at Le Chien Et Moi, Nottingham. **5** Ceramics on show at Armstrong Ward, Kendal.

STOCKTONS, MANCHESTER

140 Great Ancoats Street
Manchester M4 6DU
Tel. 0161 273 5331
Open Mon to Sat 10am to 6pm, Sun 11am to 5pm
www.stocktons.co.uk

Best for its inspirational showrooms

Stocktons is a family run company with an emphasis on inspiring furniture sets and excellent customer service. The store houses more than 40 brands, displayed across four floors in a variety of showrooms. As well as the traditional showroom, there is a three-storey contemporary one and a 'Funky Victorian' showroom featuring opulent chaise longues and decadent dining tables. Specialising in Italian designer furniture, the store attracts design addicts from far and wide.

Stocktons is the only Northern stockist of Duresta International and has a spectacular Bisazza tile showroom which has to be seen to be believed. The store was founded in 1953 and three generations of Stocktons now work there.

BARKER AND STONEHOUSE, NEWCASTLE

Strawberry Buildings, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle NE1 4PQ
Tel. 0191 261 6969
Open Mon to Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Thurs until 8pm, Sun 11am to 5pm
www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk

Best for its array of designer accessories

Upmarket furniture company Barker and Stonehouse has eight stores across the Northeast and the Midlands, but it's their Newcastle showroom that gets *Concept*'s vote. Spread out over three floors and with a fantastic accessories department (perfect for, dare we say it, Christmas shopping!), the store offers selections of the finest furniture brands including Natuzzi, Ercol, Duresta, B&B Italia, De Sede, Tempur and Ligne Roset.

If Newcastle is a bit too far to travel, try one of Barker and Stonehouse's other stores in Middlesbrough, Gateshead, Darlington, Knaresborough, Leeds, Hull or Nottingham.

PONSFORD, SHEFFIELD

577-609 London Road, Sheffield S2 4HS
Tel. 0114 255 0075
Open Mon to Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Wed until 7.30pm, Sun 11am to 5pm
www.ponsford.co.uk

Best for the latest ranges of designer furniture

With six floors and more than 75,000sq ft of display space, Ponsford is one of the largest furniture stores in the North of England. From stylishly traditional to super contemporary, a wide variety of bedroom furniture, carpets, curtains, rugs, mirrors and lighting ensures that Ponsford will probably have whatever you're looking for. The store is one of the first in the UK to stock Halo's latest furniture range and even has a café in case you need to stop for a breather! Other names found in the store include Hülsta, Ligne Roset and Duresta.

WEST PARK INTERIORS, LEEDS

20 Swinegate, Leeds LS1 4AG
Tel. 0113 245 4522
Open Mon to Fri 9.15am to 5.30pm, Sat 9.15am to 5pm, Sun 11am to 4pm
www.westparkinteriors.co.uk

Best for its full interior design service

West Park Interiors was established in 1982 and has since gained an excellent reputation for offering contemporary designer furniture in its Leeds and Harrogate showrooms. The company specialises in bedrooms, cabinet systems, upholstery, dining, office furniture, lighting and accessories, and even offers a full interior design service. Leading manufacturers on display include Rolf Benz, Hülsta, Interlübke and Cassina.

1 & 6 The elegant room sets at Barker and Stonehouse, Newcastle. **2 & 4** Spectacular Bisazza tile displays at Stocktons, Manchester. **3** Halo's latest collection at Ponsford, Sheffield. **5** Contemporary chic at West Park Interiors, Leeds.

THERE ARE CHEAPER ALTERNATIVES TO A LANGLEY BEDROOM OR BATHROOM...

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...THERE ARE ALSO NET CURTAINS AND GARDEN GNOMES.

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Langley House, Victoria Mill , Bradford Road, Bolton BL3 2HF. Tel: **01204 525432**.
E: sales@langleyinteriors.co.uk. Open Mon - Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm and Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm

Poliform / Salone del Mobile 2009

Poliform at curve

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View our updated Poliform product gallery at www.curveinteriordesign.co.uk/poliform or call 0161 237 9300 for a brochure.

Compiled by Jennie Musgrove

DISCOVERY **SPACE**

This month in Discovery Space we chat to Cath Kidston, visit one of the UK's finest salvage yards and reveal the salt and pepper pots that will bring your dining table to life!

For stockists see page 126.

WORTH A VISIT
Drew Pritchard

William Morris's motto: "Have nothing in your house you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful" is the inspiration for Drew Pritchard's salvage yard of stained glass and architectural antiques.

A passion for saving and restoring old, rare and beautiful pieces is the driving force behind the showroom, a palace of 'finds' which have been expertly sourced and painstakingly restored by Drew and his team of specialist restorers. On display in the 20,000sq ft of floor space is a constantly changing stock of everything from everyday items such as floorboards and doors to character pieces including chandeliers, fireplaces and lighting. The salvage yard also houses one of the most impressive selections of stained glass windows and panels available in the UK.

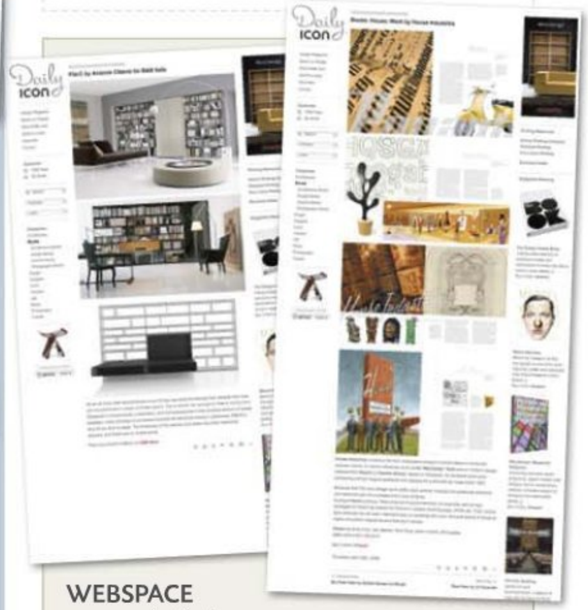
Whether you're searching out that perfect piece for your home or simply enjoy the thrill of a rare find, Drew Pritchard in North Wales is most definitely worth a visit!

www.drewpritchard.co.uk
Llanrwst Road, Glan Conwy, Conwy LL28 5TH
Open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 11am to 4pm

Photography Eleri Griffiths

MAKE SPACE FOR...
Wire Lighting Collection

The Wire Lighting Collection from Deadgood features a traditional urn shape combined with a dramatic contemporary twist, and includes both table lamps and pendant styles. Designed by Ziglam & Brook, the range is available in five different sizes and four bright colours. *Concept For Living*'s favourite is the quintessentially British pillar-box red, which makes a striking statement wherever you place it.
Wire Lighting Collection, £299.99, Deadgood
www.deadgoodltd.co.uk



WEBSPACE
www.dailyicon.net

Online magazine Daily Icon was launched in April last year and profiles the best designers, architecture and products, with a focus on furniture, accessories and lighting for the home. As its name suggests, the website sends subscribers daily posts with information and inspiring images of everything from international architecture to books and travel. The website's founder, Paul Marin, is a furniture designer from Canada who now splits his time between Milan, Stockholm and Tallinn.

Unearthing emerging talent and sharing inspiring design solutions with its 8,000 subscribers are the aims of Daily Icon – and we at *Concept For Living* are inspired!

ON OUR RADAR
Cath Kidston

In 1993, designer Cath Kidston opened her first shop in London's Holland Park, selling vintage fabrics, wallpapers and bright-painted junk furniture. Her quirky English country house style quickly attracted a cult following, and the Cath Kidston Ltd empire has since established itself as one of the UK's most influential design companies.

We find out a little more about the clever lady behind the beautiful products.

HOW IS YOUR WORK INFLUENCED BY WHERE YOU LIVE?
My house is very comfortable, practical and cheery. Those three aspects are key to what I design.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?
Feeding my baby donkey Bertie a carrot.

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
Hard to choose as I love to travel. At the moment Damascus is high on my list.

WHAT IS YOUR GUILTIEST PLEASURE?
Afternoon naps at the weekend, reading the papers and taking a hottie to bed.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?
Excluding people, an antique Mickey Mouse watch given to me by my husband.

IF YOU WERE A SUPERHERO, WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPER POWER BE?
An 'equal opportunities for everyone' wand would be nice!

WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU SAW THAT REALLY INSPIRED YOU?
The recent print show at the Royal Academy. I love abstract art and prints and there was an amazing variety on show.

ABOVE Rose blue/spot pink eiderdown, £110, Spray flowers china cup and saucer, £6, both Cath Kidston

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
Seeing the funny side of life.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE, AND WHY?
I am a big fan of Warren Buffet as he seems to live a pretty grounded life for someone so successful!

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN THE FILM OF YOUR LIFE?
My sister and I are very alike so I would be very amused to see her do it!

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LIFE HAS TAUGHT YOU?
Everything is possible if you take it one small step at a time; and do ask for help if you need it!

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?
Spring/Summer 2010 swimwear and kids this week. Working a year ahead is great as you are always in the right mood for the season you're working on.

TELL US A SECRET
Then it wouldn't be a secret?!

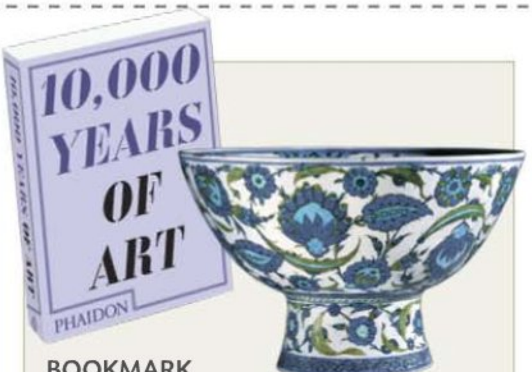
MODERN OR VINTAGE?
Very much both. I love the combination.

FLAT OR HOUSE?
House please. I love going upstairs to bed.

SUMMER OR WINTER?
All the seasons. One of the best bits about living in England is that we have changing seasons.

CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE?
I love both but if it must be one then somewhere in the city with a garden!

WWW.CATHKIDSTON.COM



BOOKMARK
10,000 Years Of Art

This pocketsize guide features 500 masterpieces spanning world art from 8,000 BC to the present day, each accompanied by a concise description. *10,000 Years Of Art* breaks through the usual geographical and cultural boundaries favoured by art history, celebrating instead the vast range of human artistry. The artworks have been selected by 35 world-leading art specialists and include fine and decorative arts, painting, sculpture, textiles, masks, ceramics and jewellery. The book is a perfect introduction for those who are new to the subject and an indispensable resource for those who have been studying art for years. Available in five different colours, *10,000 Years Of Art* should grace the bookshelf of any art lover.
Published by Phaidon
Available now
Price: £9.95
www.phaidon.com

THE MAGIC THREE
Salt & Pepper Shakers

Shake it up with our selection of cute and quirky salt and pepper pots!

FROM LEFT
G'rabbit Grinders, £16.63 each, Lakeland
www.lakeland.co.uk
Alessi Paradise Birds Salt and Pepper set, £27, Utility
www.utilitydesign.co.uk
Boogie Woogie Salt and Pepper Shakers, £16.95, ezstyle
www.ezstyle.co.uk

Daisy...... Daisy......

elephant designer beanbags

Oversized and generously filled, Elephant beanbags definitely live up to their name and are a cost-effective way of injecting funky colour and designer prints into kids' bedrooms, family rooms, games rooms and teenage dens. Go for a single splash or group two or three together for a paint-box effect – Elephants look even better in herds! These versatile seating solutions are great for parties and sleepovers, providing soft support for all the family in durable, wipe-clean fabrics. Better yet, the Jumbos weigh in at a mighty 140cm x 180cm.

Visit www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk to view our full range, request colour swatches and order. Or call 01386 423760

www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk elephant™

TEN OF THE **BEST**

BRIGHT PLANT POTS

Summer's here, so pick one of our pretty planters to brighten up your garden this August. This lot have pots of style.

1 White wire planter, £120, Heal's. 2 Twin planter pots, £6.99, Dunelm Mill. 3 Lime pot, £4.50; Base, £2.50, Tesco. 4 Large pink planter, £227, Bright Green. 5 Mini pink herb pots, £10, Store. 6 Purple pot, £9.99, Scheurich. 7 Blue rectangular pot, £9.99, Grosvenor Garden Centre. 8 Small orange pot, £5.95, The Conran Shop. 9 Mini white plant pot and base, £6, Garden Trading. 10 Large acid green planter, £19.99, Moreton Park Garden Centre.

For stockists see page 126

Photographer **Eleri Griffiths** Assisted by **Hester Brodie**

WIN A WHOLE NEW LOOK
COURTESY OF BARKER AND STONEHOUSE

This month *Concept For Living* has joined forces with furniture retailer Barker and Stonehouse to give ten lucky readers the chance to win an interior design consultation with one of its new team of professional designers.

If you love keeping up with current interiors trends and themes but are never quite sure where to start or simply looking for some inspiration on how to deal with an awkward space there is now a team of experienced professionals on hand at Barker and Stonehouse to guide and advise you through the interiors world with no job too big or small for them.

The new team is made up of some of the North's leading interior designers and boasts a wide range of experience from a private Boeing jet to premiership pads and Spanish hideaways.

Managing Director James Barker said: "The team has been introduced in reaction to customer demand with the level of choice and variety now on offer at Barker and Stonehouse so great that some customers need a little help.

"We've hand-picked every member of the team for their experience, skill and flair so we are very confident that they'll be a huge success with customers looking for some guidance no matter how big or small their project is."

As well as the vast array of brands like Natuzzi, B&B Italia, Ligne Roset and De Sede, Barker and Stonehouse also has a huge selection of contemporary and traditional pieces plus a new range of stylish and responsibly sourced furniture. Trees4Trees, a non-profit community reforestation programme in Indonesia, includes beautiful and stylish kitchen, dining and bedroom furniture in a range of styles all at competitive prices.

The interior design team also has access to many other leading brands and products not currently displayed in store or online. This means that your home can be as distinctive and different as you are.

Barker and Stonehouse has stores in Nottingham, Leeds, Hull, Gateshead, Newcastle, Knaresborough, Darlington and Middlesbrough. For more information visit www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk

BARKER AND STONEHOUSE

To be in with a chance of winning an interior design consultation all you need to do is answer the following question:

How many stores do Barker and Stonehouse have?
A 8 **B** 80 **C** 88

Email your answer to: competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk
Type 'Barker and Stonehouse' in the subject box and state your name, address, email address and daytime contact number. Or, post your entry to: Barker and Stonehouse Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 18 August 2009.

Bexton Hall project, Portrait Pools. Tel. 01704 544 222 or visit: www.portraitpools.com 12 x 5m x 1.35m constant depth freeboard skimmer pool. Reinforced sprayed concrete structure finished with special pearlescent mosaic tiled finish. Tiled Roll-On-Room marble automated pool floor covering system. The floor retracts into a hidden insulated box under an external patio.

POOL PARTY

Whether you want to add a Mediterranean, boutique hotel feel to your home with an indoor swimming pool or you fancy some summer fun in the sun with an outdoor water area, all the ideas you'll need to have a splashing time are right here...

INDOOR SWIMMING

Should you want one to keep fit or just chill out, an indoor pool is the ultimate luxury.

1

3

2

4

EXPERT ADVICE

Sufficiently tempted by these cool pools? Here's how to make it a reality...

How long will it take to have a pool added to my home?

The process would normally take around ten to 12 weeks, which includes all curing times. This is obviously dependent on size but is typical for a domestic installation.

Chris Cox, Sales Manager, Cheshire Pools

For an outdoor pool if there are no issues with things like ground conditions or water tables and assuming contractors keep on track and weather-permitting our outdoor pool kits can be installed and working in three to four weeks – that's from decision to working pool. The panel kit only takes a day to put in, but I am allowing for excavation, installation, filtration, backfilling, liner or tiling finish, filling, coping stones and groundwork.

Karen Mulkeirins, Customer Services, Polypool

A typical outdoor reinforced concrete and tiled pool will take approximately 12 weeks from start to finish. An indoor project will vary depending on the type and complexity of the surrounding structure. A realistic timescale is anything from six months for an indoor project.

Andrew Rutherford, Director, Portrait Pools

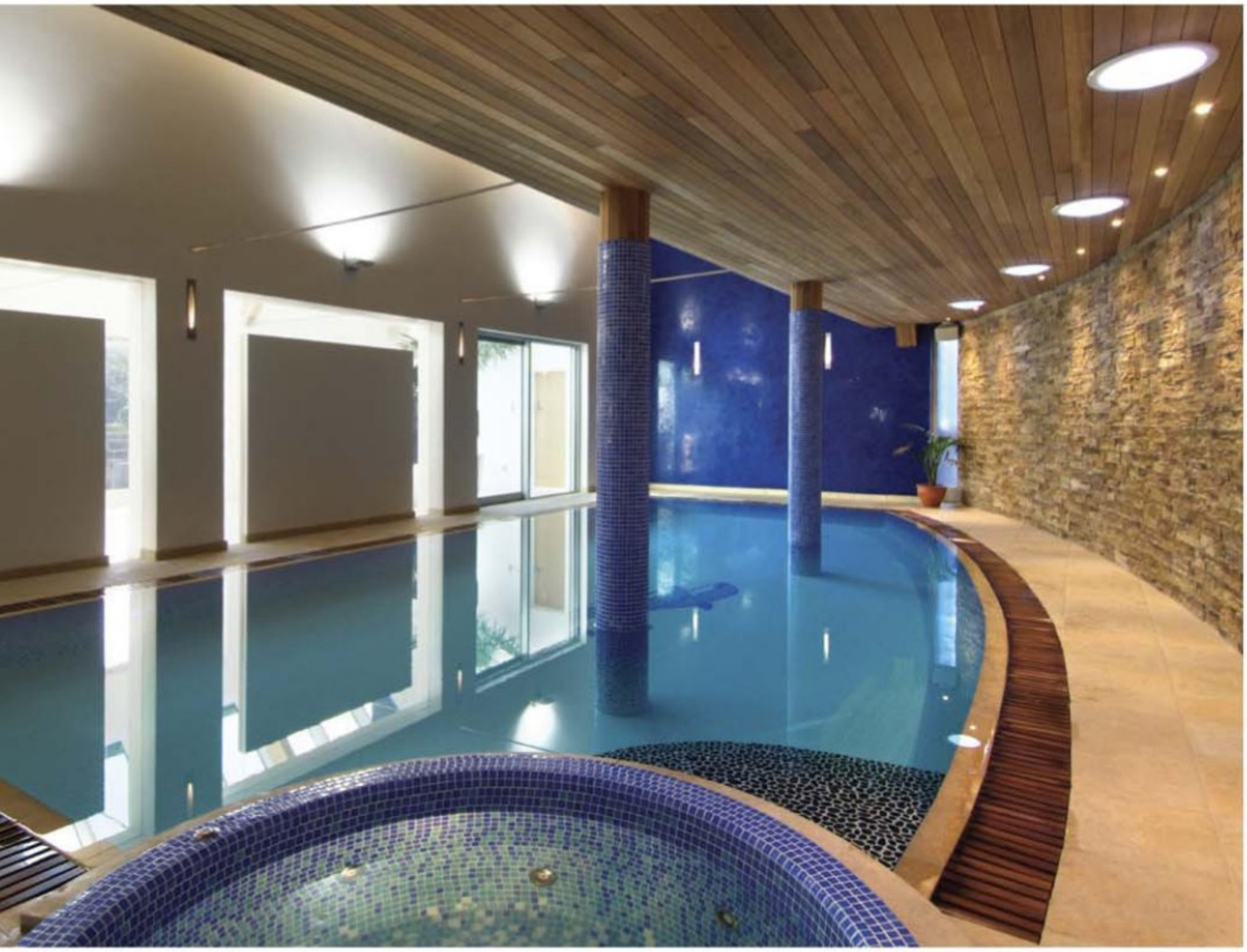
How much will it cost?

This is quite a tough one because size, specification and level of finish can vary so much. Domestic pools can start at around £40,000 with pretty much no limit on what they can go up to – previous clients have spent more than £40,000 on tiles alone for their pool.

Chris Cox, Sales Manager, Cheshire Pools

Our pool kits start from £5,995 – that's everything you need to swim. But I can't really put a top price on a pool as the spec can be very involved. An average outdoor kit costs around £15,000 while

Prices for all pools available on request and dependent on individual project.



OPPOSITE PAGE
1 Indoor project, Pinelog Pools Ltd. Tel. 01629 814 481 or visit: www.pinelog.co.uk/swimming-pools.html
2 Inground indoor pool, Polypools. Tel. 01489 890 800 or visit: www.diyswimmingpools.co.uk
3 Indoor project, Portrait Pools. Tel. 01704 544 222 or visit: www.portraitpools.com 13.5 x 4.4 x 1.35m constant deck level to three sides reinforced sprayed concrete pool finished in glass mosaic tiles. Special stone deck level detail with fully tiled. Spa pool and stone ring to match. Hidden automatic pool cover. Heat/vent, glazed sauna, steam rooms, stretch ceiling and floor tiling all by Portrait Pools.
4 Indoor deck level domestic pool, Alba Pools. Tel. 0870 770 5660 or visit www.albapools.co.uk
THIS PAGE Indoor project, Cheshire Pools. Tel. 0151 336 3417 or visit: www.cheshire-spas-pools.co.uk

an indoor one will be around £30,000 with all the environmental control system and heating.
Karen Mulkeirins, Customer Services, Polypool

Reinforced concrete and tiled pools start from around £40,000 for an outdoor pool.
Andrew Rutherford, Director, Portrait Pools

What kind of servicing and maintenance will be required?

We recommend an expert carry out a quarterly health check, while routine maintenance can be carried out by the owner/operator of the pool; this entails ensuring chemical levels are correct and that backwashing is carried out when required which is dictated by the sand filter pressure gauges.
Chris Cox, Sales Manager, Cheshire Pools

Outdoor pools will require weekly maintenance during summer months; this will involve vacuuming the pool, leaf and debris clearance and balancing of the chemicals in the water. Typically this would take an hour and a half to two hours per week. Weekly maintenance packages are available for those who don't want to get their hands dirty.
Andrew Rutherford, Director, Portrait Pools

This can vary depending on bather loads and whether it's commercial or domestic.
Generally you would carry out a weekly backwash, check the filter – especially on an outdoor for leaves and debris, test the water and replenish any chemicals. Change the sand every three years or so, with glass every six years.
Karen Mulkeirins, Customer Services, Polypool

Before you take the plunge, visit the Swimming Pool and Allied Trade Association's (SPATA) website at: www.spata.co.uk for full pool information and guidance.

OUTDOOR OPTIONS

You don't have to live in the Mediterranean to get that al fresco pool look. Dive in.

1

2

3

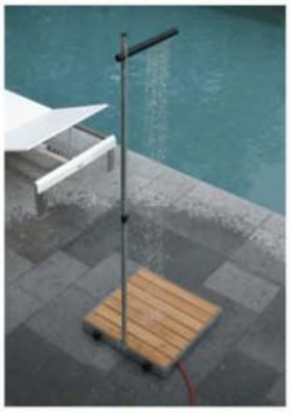
LAID-BACK LOUNGING

No swimming pool is complete without a selection of contemporary accessories and furniture.

Prices for all pools available on request and dependent on individual project.

OPPOSITE PAGE
1 Outdoor pool, Polypool. Tel. 01489 890 800 or visit: www.diyswimmingpools.co.uk
2 Outdoor project, Portrait Pools. Tel. 01704 544 222 or visit: www.portraitpools.com
3 Outdoor pool, Polypool. Tel. 01489 890 800 or visit: www.diyswimmingpools.co.uk

THIS PAGE
4 Outdoor project, Portrait Pools. Tel. 01704 544 222 or visit: www.portraitpools.com



FROM LEFT
'Fusion' sling stacking chair, £279 each; and 'Nexus' table, £1,499, both Gloster. 'Nevada' armchair, £330, Barlow Tyrie.'Dedon' slimline bench, £1,030, Leisure Plan. 'BreeZZ' dining set, £2,290, Outer Eden Ltd. 'Kingston' sunchair, P.O.A., Cane-line. Garden shower, £799, Ingarden.

ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Make your living area that touch more eco-friendly – with these beautiful products there is no reason why everyone can't be that bit kinder to Mother Earth!

LOUNGE ACT

PRETTY PAPER

Yes, that's right, now even your wall coverings can be environmentally sound. This printed wallpaper is made from 100% FSC timber sources and purely water-based inks for printing, so using no harmful VOCs or solvents. Eco-friendly and pretty – we love it! Wallpaper, £30 per 10m roll, Biomelifestyle.
Tel. 0207 254 7613 or visit: www.biomelifestyle.com for more information.

COOL MIRROR

Finding out that this gorgeous mirror was eco-friendly was music to our ears! Containing 35 discarded and recycled cassette tapes that have been chrome plated and decoratively placed around a simple mirror, Amaroni is playing a key role in helping the environment but maintaining style! U+ Cassetta Mirror, £325, Amaroni.
Tel. 01205 260 384 or visit: www.amaroni.com to get yours.

COSY BLANKET

There is nothing better at the end of the day than snuggling up on the sofa with a cosy blanket and what better way to do this than with this sumptuous organic wool blanket from Green & Easy. Organic Wool Blanket, £99.95.
Tel. 0845 257 0550 or visit: www.greenandeasy.co.uk to see more of their products.

CUTE CANDLE

A cute candle creates a relaxed atmosphere in any lounge – and it feels even better when it comes from an eco-friendly source. Wrapped in natural Birch which is supplied from a sustainable farmed source get yours now at www.dotcomgiftshop.com. Natural Bark Candle, £7.95.
Order online at www.domcotgiftshop.com or call 0208 746 2473 for more details.

COMFY CUSHIONS

Fairtrade cushions had never been so beautiful... until we found Nkuku! Simplistic designs with cute prints and best of all Fairtrade! What more could you ask for? In a variety of sizes these comfy cushions would look great on any sofa. Log onto www.nkuku.com and get yours! Serafina cushion, from £14.95, Nkuku.
Tel. 08448 880 268 or take yourself off to www.nkuku.com to find out more.

FANCY FIRE

EcoSmart have just launched their brilliant new range of fire grates. The fireplaces are fuelled by a renewable modern energy called denatured ethanol and come in four stunning designs: grooved, curved (pictured), traditional and modern. All designs start at £2,472.50.
Tel. 0207 173 5014 or visit: www.ecosmart.com to order yours now.

CHIC ECO PAINT

Now even your paint can be good for the environment. Auro paint is made from over 99 per cent natural ingredients (only the drier is synthetic), so everything from walls to old furniture can be spruced up with just a coat of eco-paint! Auro matt silk paint, £27.30 per 2.5l, Auro.
Tel. 01452 772 020 or visit: www.auro.co.uk to find your nearest stockist.

GHOST FURNITURE

Based in Northumberland, Ghost Furniture creates unique pieces for your home by reclaiming beautiful vintage items 'back from the dead' and adding a fun quirk, as well as using new eco-friendly materials wherever possible – even down to the paint! We love this 'Salon' chaise, £950, and 'Retro' chair, £950, Ghost Furniture.
Tel. 01434 240 304 or visit: www.ghostfurniture.co.uk for more on eco-chic furniture.

SLEEK MAGAZINE RACK

Not only is this magazine rack super stylish, it is also made from 90 per cent recycled plastic that's easy to recycle. Also available in white and red. 'Crease' magazine rack, £32, Object of Design.
Tel. 0148 871 236 or visit: www.objects-of-design.com to order online.

BEAUTIFUL BASKETS

A woven basket looks good and is a great way to store clutter, so why not try these contemporary ones made from recycled aluminium and pandanu fibre. Expertly woven by Indonesian crafts people working with Fairtrade organisations, not only will your lounge be looking great, but you'll feel like you're doing your bit too.
Recycled aluminium baskets, £32 (set of two), Natural Collection.
Tel. 0845 367 7001 or visit: www.naturalcollection.com for more information.

COFFEE TABLE BOOK

1000 New Eco Designs And Where To Find Them will solve your 'where to find contemporary yet eco-friendly interior products' dilemmas *and* look good on your coffee table. *1000 New Eco Designs And Where To Find Them*, £19.95, Laurence King.
Tel. 0207 841 6900 or visit: www.laurenceking.com to order your copy now.

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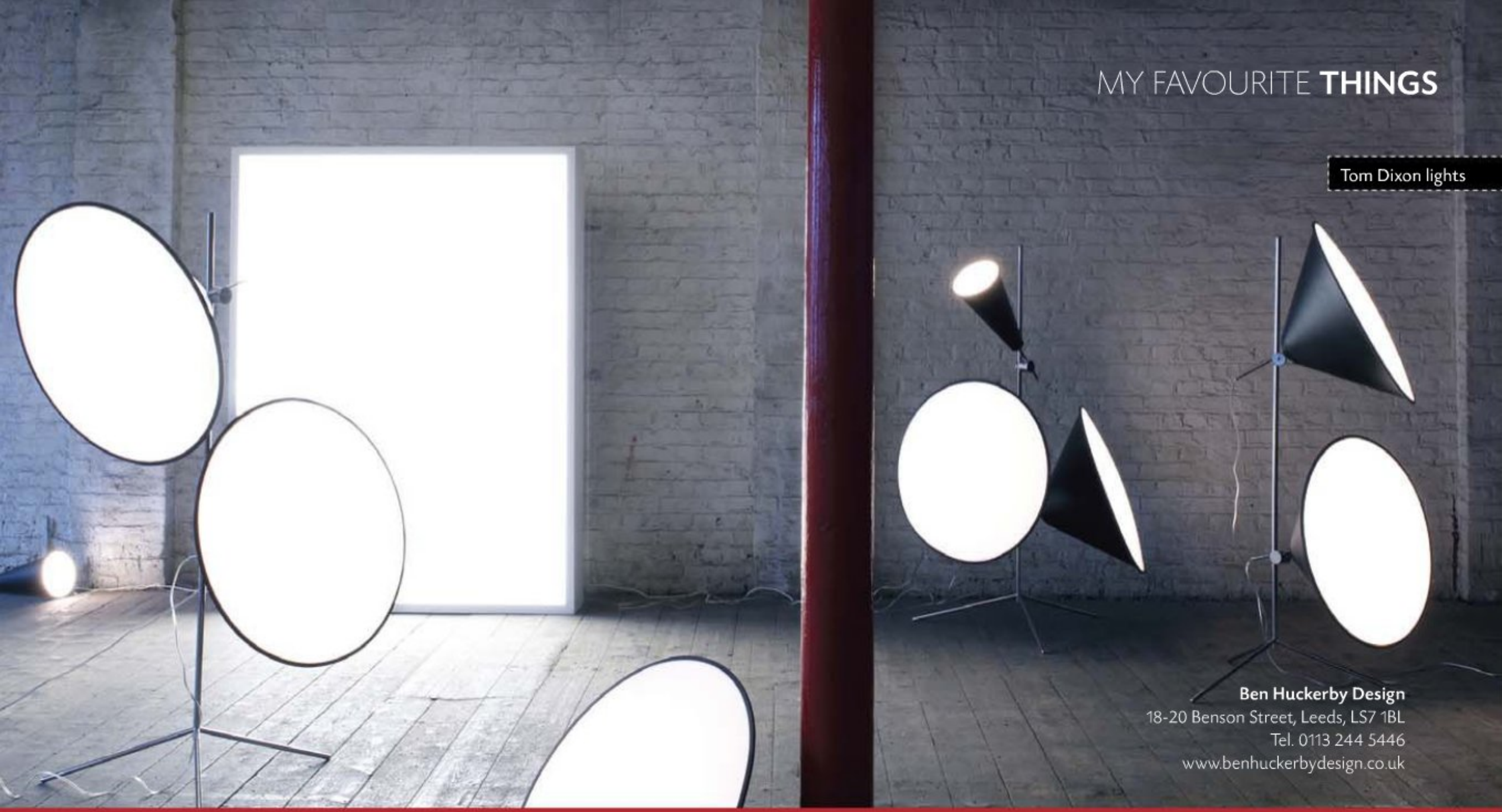
www.shackletonslifestyle.co.uk

Shackletons Home & Garden, Clitheroe Road, Chatburn, Lancashire, BB7 4JY - Tel: **01200 444488**



Tom Dixon lights

Ben Huckerby Design
18-20 Benson Street, Leeds, LS7 1BL
Tel. 0113 244 5446
www.benhuckerbydesign.co.uk

MY **FAVOURITE** THINGS

This month Leeds-based designer **Ben Huckerby** shares a few of his favourite designs.

Ben set up his interior design company six years ago after graduating in interior architecture from Leeds University. He planned to go travelling then start his career in interior design, but a chance encounter led to him setting up his own company, the successful Ben Huckerby Design. "I had a chance meeting in a bar with the owners of Carr Hall Castle (now Britain's Best Home!), Terry George and Michael Rothwell and the opportunity to work on that was one that I couldn't turn down and that's how I set up Ben Huckerby Design," he says of his lucky break.

Product designer

Tom Dixon because he's so innovative – he takes classic pieces and always adds an individual modern slant to them.

Design classic

The Ray and Charles Eames Lounger – it represents timeless design that can be tailored and put into any scheme and because it sympathetically adapts to modern and traditional environments, so it's a fantastic piece to work with.

Eames Lounge Chair and ottoman, £4,489, The Lollipop Shoppe

Tom Dixon 'Screw Table'

The Chesterfield Sofa

Future classic

The Chesterfield Sofa, but with a modern take on it, perhaps in velvet or by using interesting or diamante studs for a really opulent feel. You can also add extra buttoning or embellishment to mirror the feel of a gentlemen's club.

Design-related quote or philosophy

"Think design from the outset and make sure you know what you're doing from the start – don't leave anything to chance."

DESIGNER MAKER PROFILE

Concept For Living took a trip to sunny Prestatyn to interview **David J Jones** where we were shown how his business works and had a sneak preview of his current projects.

After training for five years as an apprentice in antique and modern upholstery David started using his neighbour's garage at evenings and weekends to build up his business. He then rented a half-size porter cabin from where his family run business grew and in 2002 moved to larger premises in Prestatyn. After being established for ten years, David J Jones is renowned for re-upholstering both antique and modern furniture in a variety of fabrics and finishes. David's desire and ambition to provide not only quality furniture but great customer service can be seen through the success of his business. As well as stocking his own range of handcrafted furniture David also has a collection of British furniture by Buoyant Upholstery, so we sat down with him for a chat....

Q&A

What is your most treasured possession?
My most treasured possession without any doubt is my family, my beautiful wife and three children.

How do you relax?
I relax by helping out coaching at my eldest daughter's swimming club.

Where is your favourite destination?
The Canary Islands, we had our honeymoon in Gran Canaria but our family holiday is Tenerife, a great place with beaches, water parks and zoos.

What is your guilty pleasure?
Watches. I can't walk past a jewellers without being tempted to buy one.

Do you have a motto?
I have more of a working ethic: to always aspire and achieve perfection.

Describe yourself in five words
Honest, happy, hardworking, proud and loyal.

What inspires you?
Providing quality and service for our customers, especially when we are told how pleased they are with the whole experience.

Who are your design heroes?
I have not so much design heroes as more an admiration of design mindsets – I respect how Frederick Parker started his furniture company and want to go on and become today's Parker Knoll.

What are your current projects?
We are always looking to develop new showroom pieces combining both leather and fabrics, which will provide unique lounge furniture.

Can you describe your work?
My work is very rewarding, whether we are restoring an antique chair or making a new suite for a customer's lounge all of our work is so unique.

What is your favourite piece of work so far?
The one I remember the most is when I acquired a Victorian chaise longue and fully restored it with the assistance of my first apprentice who still works with me today.

Contact Details:
David J Jones
TEL. 01745 859 500
VISIT: www.djjfurniturecraftsmen.co.uk

OUR NEW DESIGNS FOR 2009

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Words **Jennie Musgrove**

TOUCHING THE **SENSES**

If you're looking for inspiration this August, look no further than Kerry Darlington's latest exhibition of ethereal and dream-like paintings at Chester's Watergate Street Gallery. We talk to the artist to discover her influences, inspirations and plans for the future.

MAIN IMAGE Naive. **ABOVE** Hogsmeade Row. **OPPOSITE PAGE INSET** Jewel Tree. **LEFT** Abstract 3. **RIGHT** Quantum.

Starting with abstract scenes based on satellite photographs of Earth and moving on to decorative floral depictions, by way of hot air balloon-filled landscapes, a whistle-stop tour of Kerry Darlington's work reveals a prolific and versatile career as a fine artist. With an intricacy of detail reminiscent of Klimt (who, perhaps unsurprisingly, Kerry names as one of her influences), her work is playful, mysterious and vividly bright. Swathes of colour crack and flow across the canvas, creating a depth which entices the viewer to take a closer look.

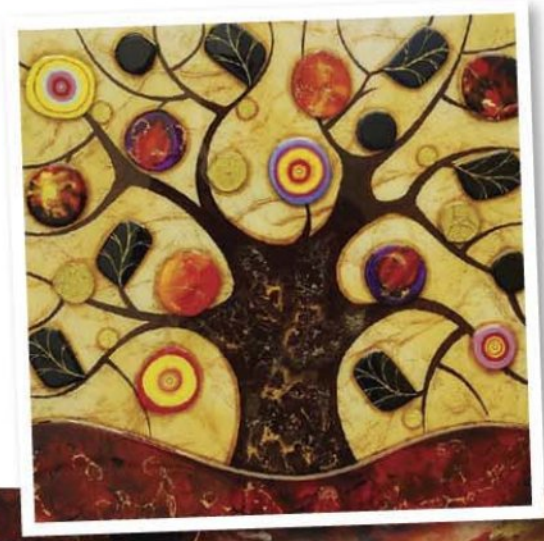
Standing in her garden studio at her home on the North Wales coast, Kerry explains the reasons behind her work's intriguing aesthetic. "I aim to touch the senses, which is why my work is tactile and bright. If done well, I find paintings can even capture sound and taste," she says. "I think each painting or design I make tells a story. And as it only has the 'one page' as such, I try to put as much information as possible into it. So my paintings are usually very busy and full of small detail."

After studying Illustration at Hull's University of Art and Architecture, Kerry worked in South America for a year before returning to the UK to work as a designer and illustrator. She then pursued a career in art by selling her canvases online. "They were so successful that it gave me the confidence to approach Watergate Street Gallery in Chester, which then began representing me," she says. Kerry's first exhibition five years ago was of her 'Volcanic Collection'; paintings inspired by satellite photographs of the Earth. Since then, Kerry's paintings have acquired a steady following, and their increasing popularity has led to her being represented in more than 70 galleries across the UK.

Kerry has been drawing ever since she can remember and her artistic talent has gradually evolved into the sophisticated style of her work today. "I was always drawing

"Each painting I make tells a story. And as it only has the 'one page', I try to put as much information as possible into it. So my paintings are usually very busy"

and worked in pen and ink throughout my teenage years," she says. "I didn't start to use colour until I was 18. That was a very positive thing for me as I became disciplined in my drawing skills and there began my ability and love for creating pattern. When you can't fill a landscape with colour or tone, you have to interpret what you see and feel into pattern. From there I began to use textures to recreate pattern, alongside colour. I find I am still tackling the same subject matter, only now in a more evolved form."



Working from her home in a rural village near Prestatyn, Kerry is surrounded by the rugged coastline and gentle hills of North Wales, which play an important role in her paintings. "My work is very much influenced by my current environment, as I use pattern inspired by nature. Trees and flowers feature in a lot of my work, as does my surrounding landscape. I'm also influenced by memories of past environment and imagination."

Speaking of artistic influences, Kerry cites 20th century book illustrator Arthur Rackham, whose work includes illustrations for *Peter Pan*, *Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. His painting *'The Serpentine'* is one of her favourite works of art "for sentimental reasons". "It was the first painting I truly loved and it probably inspired my whole style," she says.

Kerry's exceptional creative talent aside, her versatility as an artist is one of the main reasons for her commercial success. She's tried her hand at everything from abstract 'volcanic' paintings to landscapes and still-lifes. Most recently, Kerry has been working on a collection of figurative portrait pieces, combining the abstract patterns and textures of her earlier work with almost photographic-like portraits. Studies of her three children are proudly displayed in her studio, the forerunners of a new collection of large-scale figurative works.

Looking to the future, Kerry's aim is to continue striving for excellence. "My goal as an artist is simply to be as good a painter as I possibly can be. I improve with every new painting and that is what drives me on; I always think my next piece – or series – will be better than the last. I am really excited about the future as everything seems to have fallen into place artistically."

Kerry Darlington's work is on permanent display at Watergate Street Gallery, Chester, with a special exhibition of her work running from 1 August until the end of August. To preview some of the works being exhibited, visit: www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk/exhibition.htm. For further information, tickets to the exclusive launch event and to meet the artist in person, call Alex Sharp on 01244 345 698 or email: alex@watergatestreetgallery.co.uk.

Kerry's work has also been selected for the National Eisteddfod Visual Art Exhibition this year, on display from 31 July to 21 August. Visit: www.eisteddfod.org.uk for more information. To find out more about Kerry, visit her website: www.kerrydarlington.co.uk.

LUXURY LIVING IN THE LAKES

Sunnyhill rightly deserves the title 'Grand Design' and is perhaps set to be the most desirable new home in Windermere.

This contemporary 5-bedroom house, extending to around 5,000 sq ft, is situated in an elevated position in almost 2 acres of garden and enjoys wonderful views.

Sunnyhill is unashamedly modern in style, the extensive use of glass allowing light to flood in. At the core of the house is a full-height glazed atrium with a cantilevered oak staircase.

The semi-open plan layout is ideal for entertaining and incorporates a luxurious kitchen/morning room and a huge lounge, each having large sliding glass doors leading out on to the terrace.

Rarely does the opportunity arise to acquire a spectacular new home such as this in the Lake District National Park. Guide price £2.25m.

Viewing by appointment only.

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www.robert-hughes-limited.com

PROPERTY **NEWS**

This August we showcase designer apartments in Manchester's Millennium Community, sustainable homes that don't require central heating and the latest contemporary yacht models.

CHIPS FOR RENT

Apartments at quirky New Islington development, Chips, are now available to rent before you buy.

Chips is one of Urban Splash's innovative apartment buildings in New Islington, the Will Alsop-designed community in Manchester. The eight-storey building was conceived as 'three fat chips stacked on top of each other', and each 'chip' is covered in text referring to the industrial heritage of the Ancoats area. Comprising 142 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, Chips provides a mix of living and studio units and commercial space within a single project. There is also a variety of differing external balconies. The contemporary apartments are planned internally around a central 'pod' unit, housing the bathroom and kitchen areas. Large folding screens mean residents can live in an open-plan space or divide the floor area to make more rooms.

To help first-time buyers get on the housing ladder, Urban Splash has teamed up with Plumlife to offer a 'Rent to Homebuy' scheme, allowing prospective buyers to rent from as little as £400 per month and buy from £50,000. The scheme offers the chance to receive a 20 per cent discount on rent, with the rent going towards a deposit on an apartment. Anyone who doesn't already own a property, is over 18, in full-time employment and able to move in straight away is eligible for the Rent to Homebuy scheme themselves.

"People just love New Islington, they love what it's about, and it's going to be a fantastic new community," said Nicola Wallis, investment sales director at Urban Splash. "There's a mix of new developments; Chips was designed by Will Alsop and completely highlights the skyline of Manchester, then you've got Tutti Frutti which is a self-build project where people can buy the plot of land and design their own home."

Dubbed Manchester's Millennium Community, New Islington is situated between the Ashton and Rochdale canals on the Northern edge of Manchester City Centre. Launched in 2002, Alsop's Strategic Framework for New Islington will provide 1,700 new homes and approximately 200,000sq ft of commercial space, laid out in an exceptional place, modelled around new canal arms and an inspiring landscape.

Visit: www.urbansplash.co.uk or www.newislington.co.uk to find out more.

BUILDING BRICKS

Homebuilder Bardsley is inviting buyers at its waterside development in Manchester to 'lay the first brick.'

The Boatyard is a collection of 63 high-specification homes and eight executive apartments, covering almost four acres of land in the historic village of Worsley. Developer Bardsley is inviting homebuyers to 'lay the first brick' of their waterside home in a ceremony to mark the homebuilder's commitment to building the remaining phases of the site.

"Whilst most people may be forgiven for thinking the entire industry has downed tools and given up all hope of a recovery, Bardsley wants to make sure that its customers are well aware that it is business as usual," said Graeme Spencer, sales director at Bardsley. "Bardsley is still 100 per cent committed to building beautiful homes of the highest level in quality and specification."

Designed by award-winning architectural practice, Calder Peel, the homes blend traditional elegance with stunning contemporary design. Steep pitch rooflines, long chimneys and tall, slender windows complement the properties' red brick and white rendered façades.

The charming village of Worsley is just seven miles from Manchester city centre and represents a calm oasis on the edge of the metropolis. Tree lined avenues, a picturesque village green, a distinctive and dominant style of Tudor architecture and the peaceful Bridgewater Canal all make Worlsey an ideal location for families and young professionals alike.

For further information on The Boatyard, call Bardsley on 0161 330 4444 or visit: www.boatyardbardsley.com.

SUSTAINABLE SELF-BUILDING

An annual heating bill of less than £25 sounds too good to be true – but for German company WeberHaus, it's a reality.

With rising fuel prices and talk of 'fuel poverty', the idea of a heating bill of less than £25 per year seems like a pipedream. The 'PassivHaus' concept, however, makes it possible.

The energy efficiency of a PassivHaus home is based on factors such as building orientation and design, but the main benefits are derived from its construction, air tightness and its heat recovery system. The house works in a similar way to a vacuum flask; it has excellent insulation properties to keep the house warm in cold weather whilst keeping the interior cool during hot summer temperatures. Instrumental in achieving this balance is a heat recovery system, which captures up to 90 per cent of the heat from inside the house whilst circulating fresh air from the outside. In cold temperatures, a heater will heat incoming air if required. The system is so effective that there is no need for central heating.

Another advantage of the system is that the home is manufactured off-site, so that once the foundations are laid, the home can be erected in a matter of days.

"There are many advantages to the WeberHaus PassivHaus system but the whole 'off-site manufacture' is a concept that is still largely alien to the UK construction industry, even though it is a well-proven system around the world," said Thomas Solle, business development manager of WeberHaus. "The traditional brick exterior familiar to the British is still possible with our system, but increasingly the design conscious and those seeking a sustainable alternative are looking at PassivHaus. The government is seeking to encourage carbon reduction measures in building through the Code for Sustainable Housing; this system can surpass current levels by a considerable degree."

For further information on the WeberHaus range, call 01582 794 192 or email: info@weberhaus.co.uk.

RIVA'S LATEST MODEL

This year's Cannes Boat Show will see the launch of Riva's latest 26m yacht.

The 86' Domino is a clean, streamlined open boat with a spectacular, high-impact effect; the latest offering from luxury motor-yacht manufacturer, Riva. Designed for owners who favour stylishly sporty lines, this new boat marks an evolution of the 63' Vertigo and 68' Ego Super models. Guests can enjoy much more space as well as a number of different areas for socialising.

The closed, air-conditioned upper salon offers an open space area and incorporates natural light through both the large side windows and the windshield. The design of the furnishings and the special shades of elm and grey durmast with natural-coloured leather inserts and grey lacquering make it an attractive, welcoming environment. The en-suite master cabin, complete with walk-in wardrobe, also contains a private living room and vanity area. The en-suite VIP cabin is located at bow, whilst two en-suite twin-bedded guest cabins are located between this and the master cabin.

Visit: www.riva-yacht.com to find out more about Riva Yachts.

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SUMMERTIME **GETAWAYS**

Let your imagination follow the sunshine this summer with the beautiful properties we've uncovered in France, Spain and Britain's own beauty spot, Cornwall.

YEAR-ROUND IGLOO LIVING

A two-bedroom apartment in Le Chalet Igloo is an ideal pad for both summer and winter holidays in the French Alps.

Located at an altitude of 1,850m, alongside the snow-sure ski slopes of the San Bernadino skiing area, the property is part of a new residential development a few minutes walk from the centre of La Rosière. The apartment features a floor area of just over 48sq m and a 14.6sq m south-facing terrace as well as underground parking, cellar storage and a ski locker. The kitchen and bathroom are fully fitted. For an annual charge of €500 per person, occupiers have use of the pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and gymnasium in the neighbouring four-star residence de tourisme, Les Cimes Blanches, built by the same developer, MGM.

In the summer, outdoor activities on offer locally include hiking, biking, climbing, pony trekking, white water rafting and paragliding.

The nearest airport is at Chambéry (one hour and 40 minutes by road). Within two hours and 20 minutes are the airports of Geneva, Lyon and Grenoble.

The apartment is priced at €317,000. To find out more about Le Chalet Igloo and MGM's other developments, call their UK office on 0207 494 0706 or visit: www.mgm-constructeur.com.

OVERSEAS ALTERNATIVE

If you'd rather own a holiday home a little closer to home, a new development in Cornwall might just have the answer.

If you've ever dreamt of recreating those childhood memories of holidays spent rock pooling, beachcombing and enjoying the freshest fish and chips, but with 21st century comforts, then take a look at The Bay, Talland, a select holiday home development of 42 properties overlooking a beautiful stretch of Cornwall's south coast.

Offering a tranquil escape from everyday life and the crowds of north Cornwall, The Bay rests above the rocky coves and small, picturesque beaches of Talland Bay, an unspoilt landscape between Looe and Polperro. With direct access to the South West Coastal Path, it overlooks the sea in an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'.

The development features high quality homes and resort facilities including an indoor pool, sauna, gym, tennis court and bar. Situated an hour away from The Eden Project, Padstow, Newquay and St. Ives, The Bay is an ideal base for exploring the delights of Cornwall.

The homes at The Bay have been designed by local architects to blend harmoniously with the landscape, and have views directly out to sea and across open countryside. When complete, many of the properties will feature decking and built-in barbecues to help owners make the most of the long summer evenings, and have first-floor sitting rooms with coastal views.

Internally, buyers can select their own finishing touches to their home, from tiling and kitchen units to custom layouts. Every home will feature spacious open-plan kitchens, oak flooring, underfloor heating and stylish vaulted ceilings.

Two- and three-bedroom designs are available, with sizes ranging from 900sq ft to 1200sq ft and prices starting at £280,000. Visit: www.thebaytalland.com to find out more about The Bay, or call 01503 272 224.

TAKE A CHANCE ON **GREECE**

The popularity of *Mamma Mia!* has sent hundreds of holiday home buyers super trouping to the Greek islands.

The blockbuster hit *Mamma Mia!* resulted in a 120 per cent jump in potential buyers viewing property in Greece in just one month following release of the film, worldwide property website PropertyIndex.com has revealed.

The highest grossing UK box office hit of all time was set on the sleepy Greek island of Skopelos and has sparked a rise in those who have a dream to own a holiday home in Greece, with 24,852 viewings of property online in March 2009, compared with 9,812 the year before.

"British buyers are clearly captivated by *Mamma Mia!*'s idyllic portrayal of life in the Greek islands and are intent on finding their own island hideaway," said Lee Bramzell, chief executive of PropertyIndex.com. "Greece offers a fantastic climate with mild winters and 3,000 hours of sunshine a year, resulting in a long rental season from April to October. The cost of living is low and property prices are affordable with two-bedroom properties costing in the region of £165,529. With second homeowners looking not only for value for money but also the opportunity to recoup some of the costs through renting the property out for all or part of the year, Greece is a top performing destination."

Budget airline easyJet has also recently reported a 13 per cent increase in sales of flights to Athens since the film was released last summer. So it looks like for holidaymakers and second homebuyers alike, Greece is the name of the game.

Mamma Mia!, featuring the songs of ABBA and based on the popular West End musical, has grossed in excess of $600 million worldwide and is the biggest box office hit the UK has ever seen.
Visit: www.propertyindex.com for more information on worldwide property.

HOTELIER DREAMS

A Parisien-style boutique hotel in a Spanish city centre is the perfect find for a would-be hotelier.

A historic city in southern Spain, Jerez is the spiritual home of flamenco, the birthplace of sherry and a centre for Andalucian dancing horses. Its 'Casco Histórico' with a walled medina concealing cobbled streets, authentic tapas bars and the period palaces of the sherry dynasties draws travellers all year round, whilst the unblemished beaches of the Costa de la Luz are a 20-minute drive.

A ten-bedroom, turn-of-the-20th-century guesthouse in a narrow street at the heart of Jerez is currently on the market through estate agents, Mercers. Featuring a tardis-like 506sq m constructed area as well as a suntrap roof terrace of 180sq m which throws light down into the vestibule via a large skylight, JER113 is a rare find. The property's ten bedrooms and six bathrooms are arranged over three floors, with a shady courtyard patio at ground floor level and private garage for up to three cars.

JER113 is one minute from Jerez's central shopping district, Calle Larga, and has been welcoming paying guests for a number of years.

Easy to reach for nationals and northern Europeans alike, Jerez's modernised International Airport is set to serve 4 million passengers each year by 2012 (up from 1.4 million in 2006) and will crucially have its own AVE (bullet train) station connecting it to Spain's major cities.

The price of JER113 was recently reduced from €850,000 to €599,000. Contact Mercers on +34 956 329 572, UK Local Rate 0845 017 7805, email jerez@spanishproperty.co.uk or visit: www.spanishproperty.co.uk.

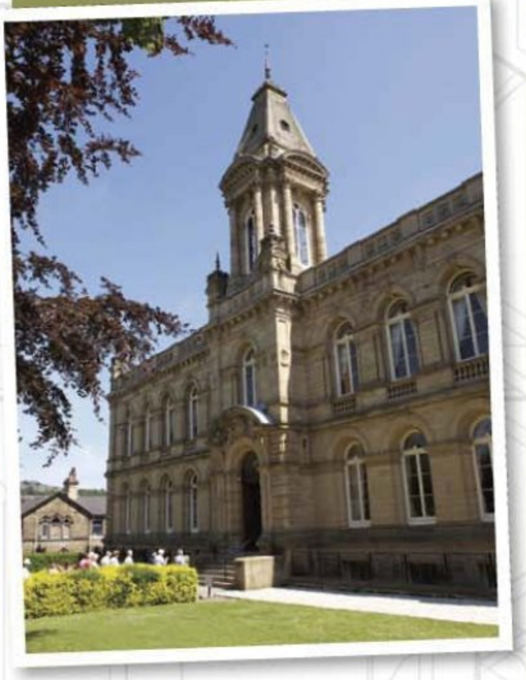
RIGHT Salts Mill originally opened as a textile mill in 1853 on Sir Titus Salt's 50th birthday. **BELOW** Shipley Town Hall. **BELOW RIGHT** Sir Titus Salt built a village for his workforce around the mill. **OPPOSITE MAIN** The mill was built in yellow sandstone in an Italianate style. **TOP RIGHT** The 1853 gallery makes up part of Saltaire's vast exhibition space.

Photography Eleri Griffiths

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW:

PASS THE SALT

In this month's column Kevin Drayton takes a trip to West Yorkshire to explore to Salts Mill: a vast adaptable mill space turned gallery, which was designed with huge vision and attention to detail.



"Both men had visions of a better future; both had the energy and determination to bring them into being; one devised the building to house his vision, the other saw that building as the catalyst for his"

This month I would like to invite you to visit a building that illustrates what I regard as two important criteria for successful architecture: vision and adaptability.

Without strong vision, we get mediocrity. With vision, we occasionally get heroic failures but when vision is allied to solid technical ability (10 per cent inspiration, 90 per cent perspiration) we can achieve great buildings and places.

This month's building involves the visions of two people, separated in time by over a century. The first is Sir Titus Salt, enlightened Victorian textile magnate and the second a 20th century entrepreneur by the name of Jonathan Silver. The building is the enormous Salts Mill at Saltaire, just outside Bradford.

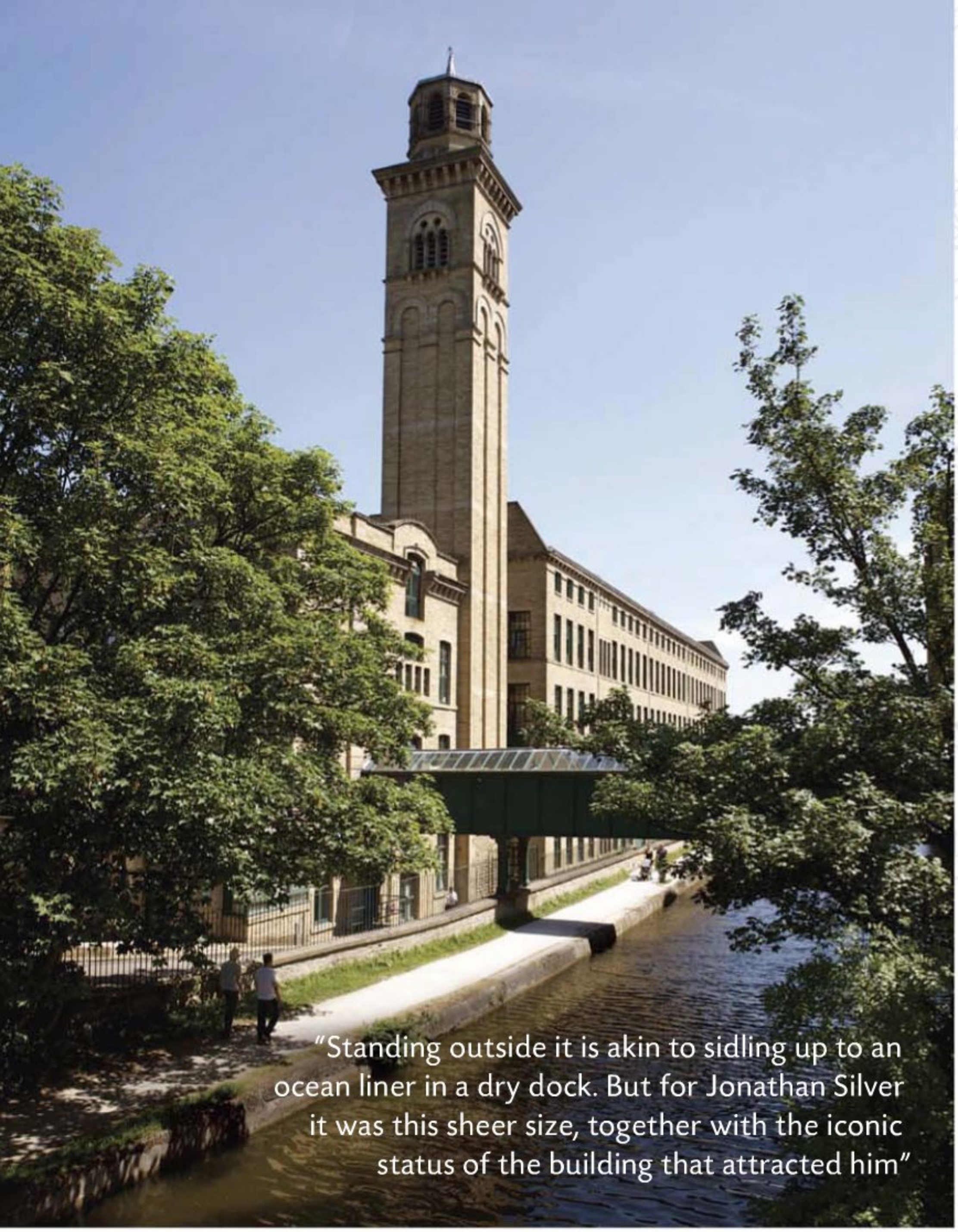
Titus Salt was born into a Bradford textile family and in the first half of the 19th century he began to make his fortune in the industry. At the same time his growing awareness of the appalling squalor within which many of his workforce lived led him to an alternative vision.

In 1853 his new textile mill was opened away from the filth of central Bradford, designed by local architects Lockwood and Mawson and based loosely on the Italian Renaissance palazzo style. The grandeur of this building is, to my mind, somewhat compromised today thanks to the railway line and associated clutter that passes across the main façade, but with a little squinting through half-closed eyes it is still possible to imagine the impact it must have had when first completed.

Now firmly gripped by improving zeal, Titus went on to build an entire village for his workforce around the mill, with 900 houses and every other amenity they could need – except a pub that is. Oh well.

Although not unique (Port Sunlight on the Wirral and Vickerstown at Barrow in Furness are similar examples of paternalist worker villages) the wider Saltaire is well worth a visit. The United Reform Church (where Salt is buried) and the Victoria Hall Club are typical of the high standard of building that Sir Titus Salt deemed appropriate for his brave new industrial world. The fact that it is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site is testament to Saltaire's quality.

As we know, the success of the British textile industry could not be maintained and by 1980



"Standing outside it is akin to sidling up to an ocean liner in a dry dock. But for Jonathan Silver it was this sheer size, together with the iconic status of the building that attracted him"

the mill was pretty well redundant. That could so easily be the end of the story, were it not for another Bradford man with vision.

Jonathan Silver was born in Bradford in 1949 and what he lacked in academic ability, he more than made up for in entrepreneurial flair. He managed to gain a place to study textiles at Leeds University and shortly afterwards started his own clothing company. By 1979 he had 13 shops across the country. Jonathan never lacked vision. I first met him in person when he had teamed up with another great Yorkshire entrepreneur, Sir Ernest Hall, shortly before they began the ambitious regeneration scheme that is now Dean Clough in Halifax.

Two things stick in my mind from that period: Jonathan's parrot which kept a beady eye on meetings and the fact that Jonathan once rang me to ask where I had bought a particular pair of shoelaces that had caught his eye. Huge vision plus attention to detail.

In 1984 Jonathan sold up and took his family off to explore the world. He returned some 18 months later with an appetite for a challenge, and in 1987 he bought Salts Mill. Visiting Salts today is an experience; visiting it at the time Jonathan bought it was also an experience, albeit a very different one. Finding new uses for the derelict, deserted mills that had for so long fuelled Yorkshire's economy was a growth industry in the 1980s. But Salts was almost in a league of its own, so vast was the complex. Standing outside it is akin to sidling up to an ocean liner in a dry dock. But for Jonathan Silver it was this sheer size, together with the iconic status of the building that attracted him.

What has been achieved at Salts can be experienced by the visitor today through the shops, businesses, galleries, cafés and so on, that inhabit the building. And this is where the second component I referred to, that of adaptability, is so important. At one level, Salts Mill is basically an elegantly crafted, multi-storey rectangular box. Which means that it is as capable of housing prints, paperbacks, pizza ovens, performers and period instruments (you'll see what I mean when you visit)

as it once was textile looms. The simpler a building is, the greater the chance of finding new uses for it.

None of this quite prepares you for the sheer pleasure of the interiors. Entering at the ground floor you cannot fail to be impressed by the rugged elegance of the vast space. Stone flag floors, cast iron columns, simple arched windows and shallow brick vaulted ceilings combine in a classic recipe for successful industrial architecture. Jonathan Silver recognised that Sir Titus Salt's building had an inherent quality that needed little more than a good wash and brush up. Then it was ready to accommodate the mix of activities that Jonathan understood were required for it to function economically and socially.

Both men had visions of a better future; both had the energy and determination to bring them into being; one devised the building to house his vision, the other saw that building as the catalyst for his.

And I haven't even mentioned probably the best David Hockney collection in the country, or the excellent food in Salts Diner, or...

Kevin is a partner at One17 Design. Visit: www.one17design.com to find out more about his work.

To visit West Yorkshire's Salts Mill, Shipley, Saltaire and admire the place for yourself you can find further information about the gallery, shops, cafés and surrounding area at www.saltsmill.org.uk or tel. 01274 531 163.

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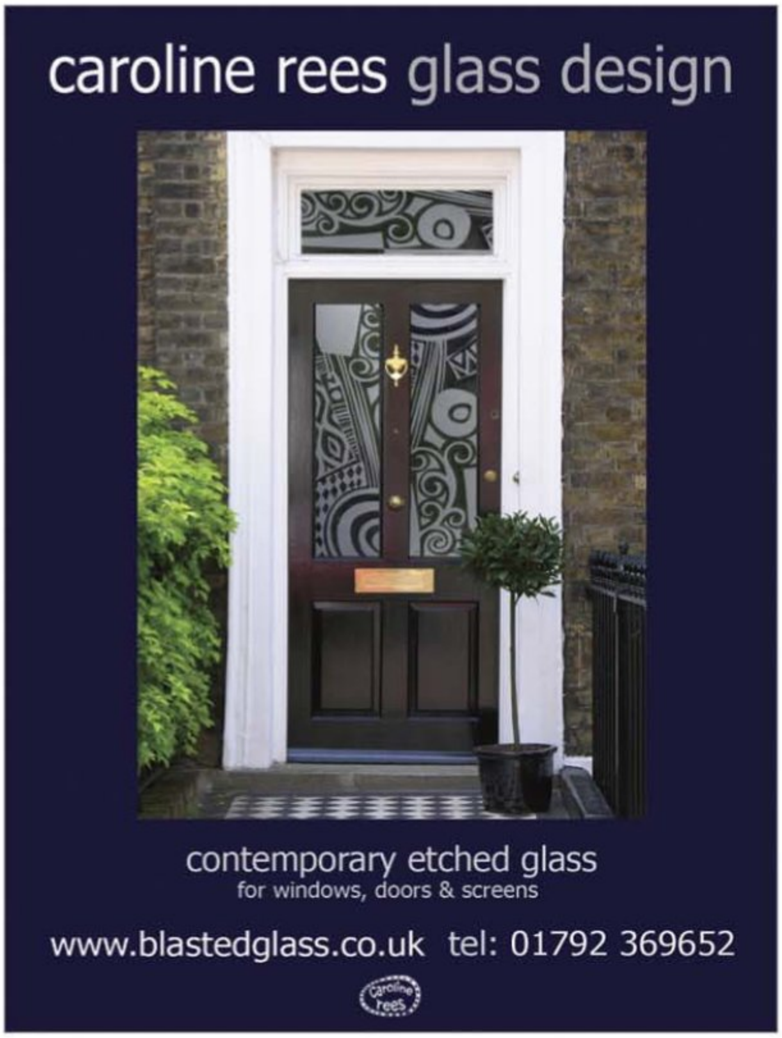
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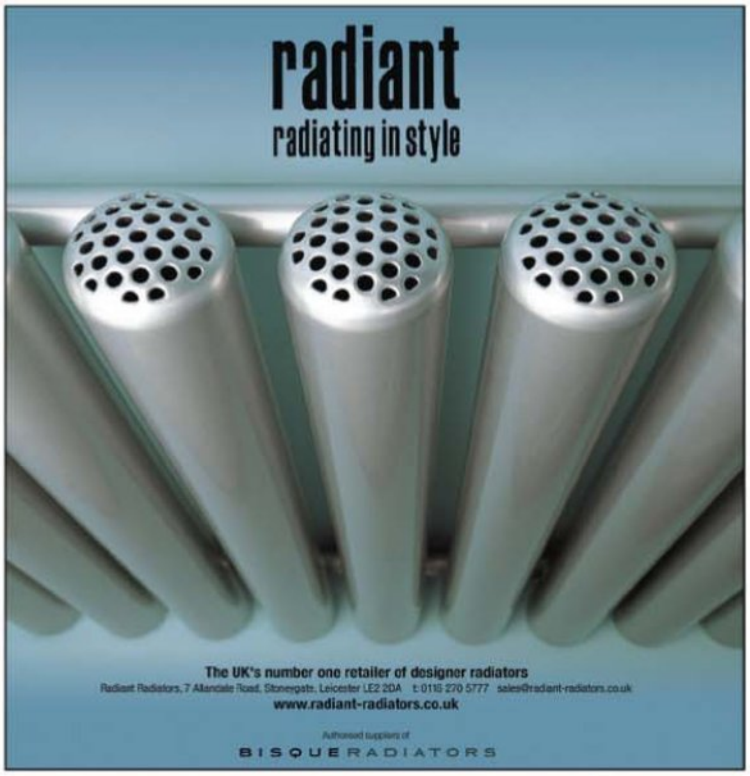
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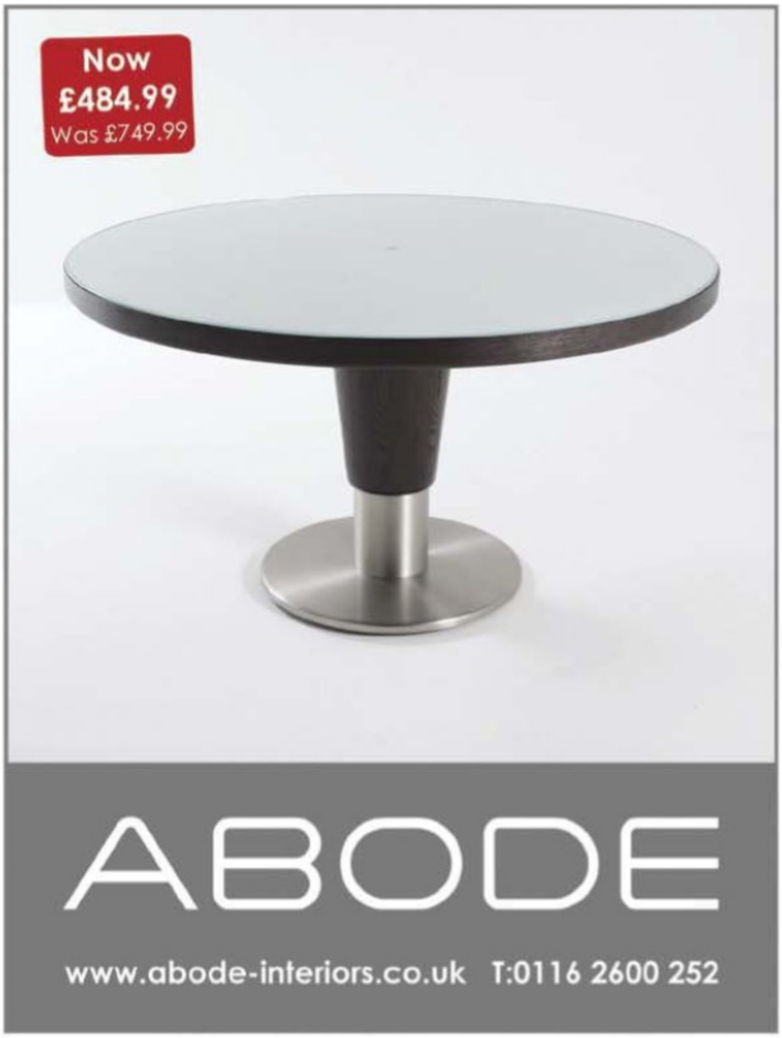
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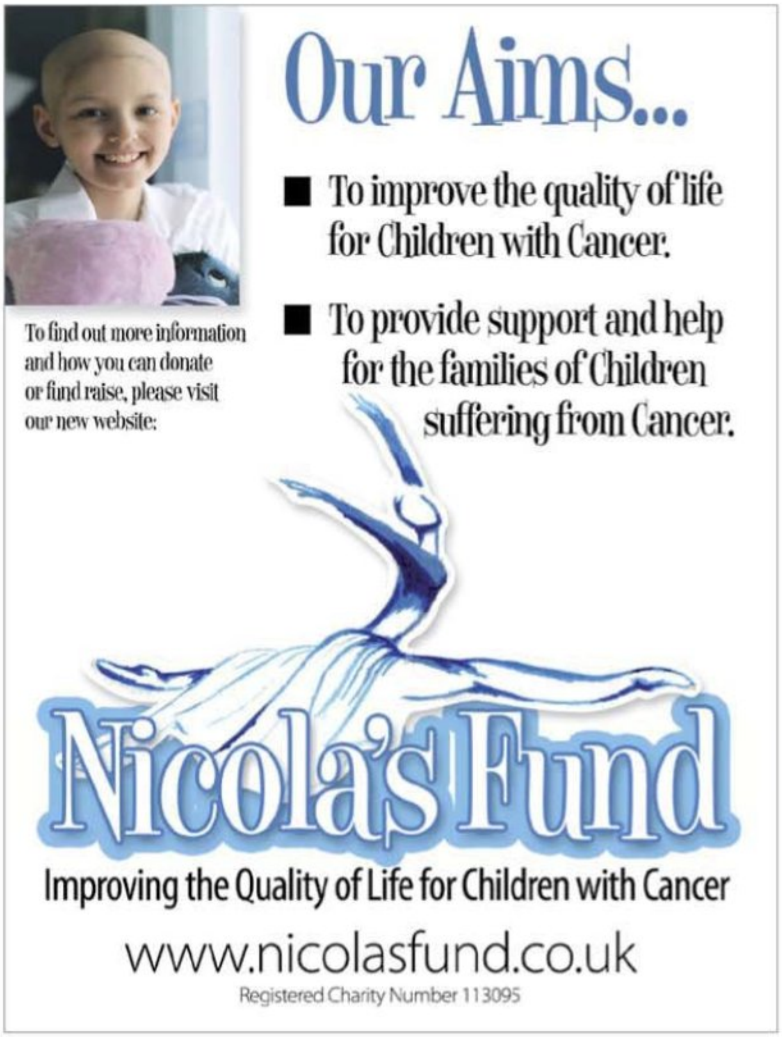
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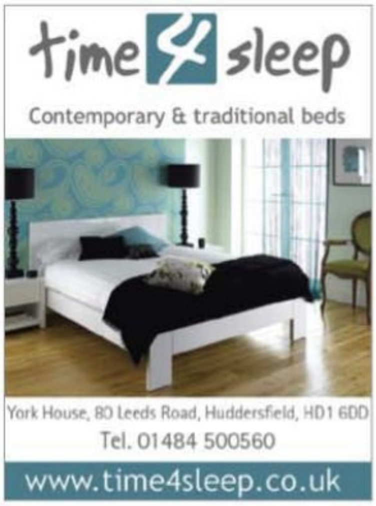
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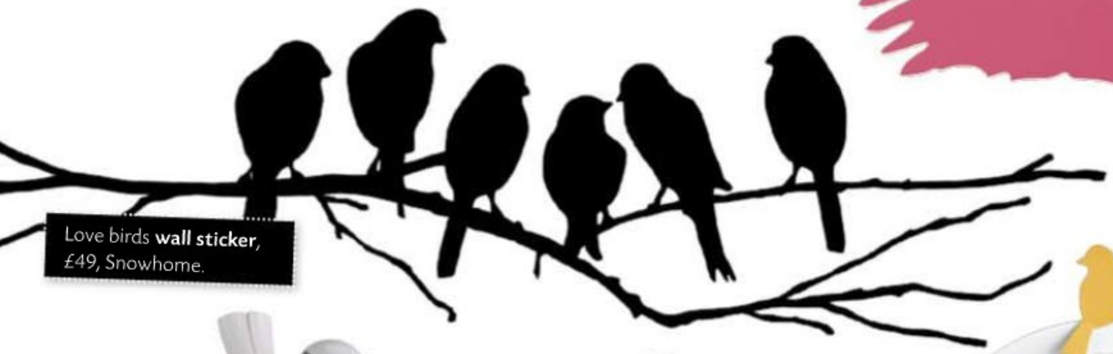

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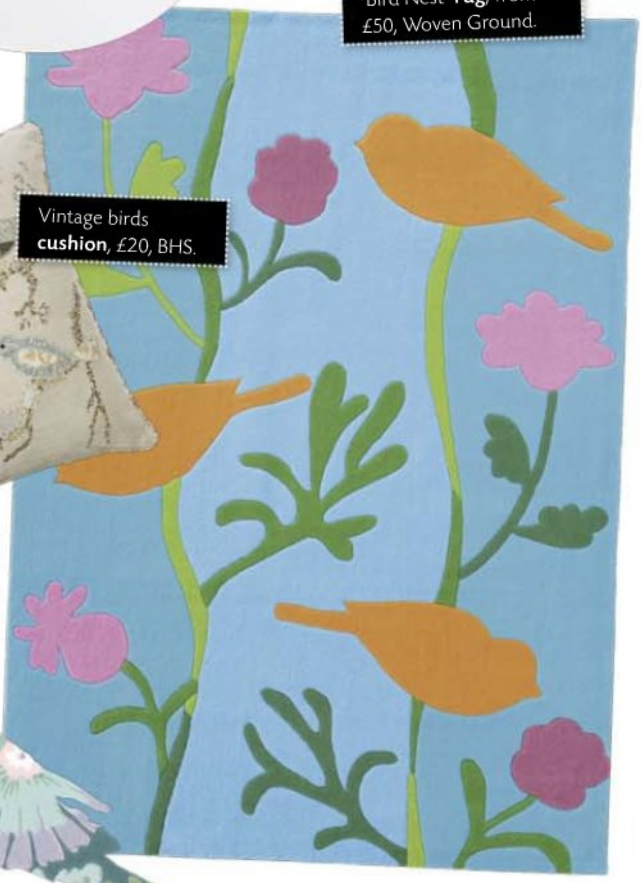

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